

- * Some Arab tribes invited the Muslims to teach them Islam but killed many of them by treachery.

Words to Remember:

Siege, Treachery

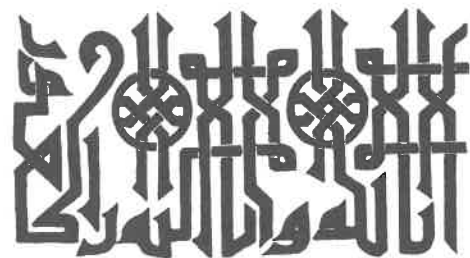
Names to Remember:

Banu Nadir, Ka'b bin Ashraf, Khaibar, Kilab, Adal, Qarah

The Quranic Study

The reading of previous chapters will help you to understand Surah *Ali 'Imran* 3:122-180. Read this chapter and see what Allah says about the following. Give proper reference of the *Ayah's* in your answer.

1. How did Allah help the two weakhearted groups?
2. In what ways did Allah help the believers?
3. What should the Muslims do to become successful and victorious?
4. What will bring misfortune and defeat to the Muslims?
5. What did Allah promise to do to the *Kuffar*?
6. How does the Quran describe the character and role of Rasulullah(S) as a messenger of Allah?
7. What happens to the *Shuhada'*?
8. Were the promises made in these *Ayah's* fulfilled in the future?



LESSON 12

ALLAH GIVES A FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Fourth Year of Hijrah

All evil habits are bad. Some of them destroy human beings both physically and mentally. They are bad for the individual and for society. According to the Quran four habits which are the worst enemies of human beings are: drinking, gambling, games of chance and idolatry.

Drinking is one of the vices which was as common among all the Arabs in the past as it is in our modern society. It is the root of all evils. By drinking, one loses control over one's mind and body. One has no control over one's actions. One endangers one's own life as well as the life of other human beings. Many other evil acts such as murders, rapes, and burglaries are committed by the drunk.

Islam teaches us that our mind is a special gift that Allah has given only to human beings. Allah wants us to use our minds properly. By the use of reason we can recognize Allah and His purpose in our life.

Drinking also destroys one's health. Alcoholism in itself is a sickness. In recent years, much research has been conducted into curing this sickness. Every bad habit is difficult to give up, but drinking is the worst. People who cannot stop drinking are alcoholics. These days, when alcoholics recognize their sickness and want to give up the habit, they have to go through special programs in clinics.

Gambling is another evil that is condemned by the Quran. Allah has given us a mind and body to use properly. Allah wants us to earn our living through honest work. Human civilization is built by hard work and not by gambling. Besides, in gambling many people lose their money while one takes it from them.

Gambling is also a kind of sickness. Compulsive gamblers do not stop when they win. They stake everything even when they start losing. History tells us, and we have everyday examples, that gamblers stake all their possessions, ignoring the rights of their families. Gamblers lose the habit of hard work and stop being a productive part of human society.

The Quran warns us about another human weakness, the desire to know about one's future. The Quran tells us that only Allah knows the future, and no one else has any knowledge of future events. Human beings are keen to know their future. They have invented methods like astrology, palmistry, and games of chance to determine future events. But these are only wild guesses, and superstition. People who use these methods have no faith, and are constantly worried about their future. They cannot act without consulting these fortune tellers. The fortune tellers take advantage of poor and ignorant people and give them false advice about which they don't know themselves, for a lot of money.

The time has come to tell the Muslims that faith in Allah alone and not in fortune tellers is essential for success in this life and in the Hereafter. Allah is kind and He always thinks the best for us. The Quran teaches Muslims to make an effort and then to rely upon Allah and accept whatever that effort produces. A Muslim should never worry about the future, but make an effort and leave the future in the hands of Allah. If we have faith, then we know whatever Allah does is best for us.

The *Wahi* came, it attacked the four major evils of Arab society and banished them forever. Allah spoke thus,

O believers! Indeed, drinking (*al-Khamr*), gambling (*al-Maisir*), Idol worship (*al-Ansab*), and fortune telling (*al-Azlam*) are evil works of *Shaitan*. Leave them, in order that you may succeed.

al-Ma'idah 5:90

Thus, in one stroke, Allah banned four evil things which were destroying Arab society. In fact, they destroy any human society. The Muslims had already given up idols. Now they gave up drinking, gambling, and games of chance. When this *Wahi* came, *Rasulullah*(S) sent a public announcer in Madinah. As soon as the people hear this they broke their cups, jars, and bars and repented to Allah. Some who were about to drink held their hand back and threw away both cup and wine. The wine was flowing in the streets of Madinah like water. When *Umar*(R) heard this announcement, he declared, "O Allah, we give these up forever."

Muslims are advised that in order to succeed in this world and in the Hereafter, they must give up these four evil things, *al-Khamr*, *al-Maisir*, *al-Ansab*, and *al-Azlam*, and place their trust in the hands of Allah.

Many societies have tried to ban these evils. They have even passed laws but have failed. The early muslims were so disciplined that they gave these things up immediately, and no good Muslim falls prey to these evils.

Points of Review:

- * Drinking, gambling, fortune telling, and idolatry are the four major evils of human society.
- * Muslims are told to give up these four evils in order to succeed.
- * The early Muslims gave up these evils and Allah honored them with great success.

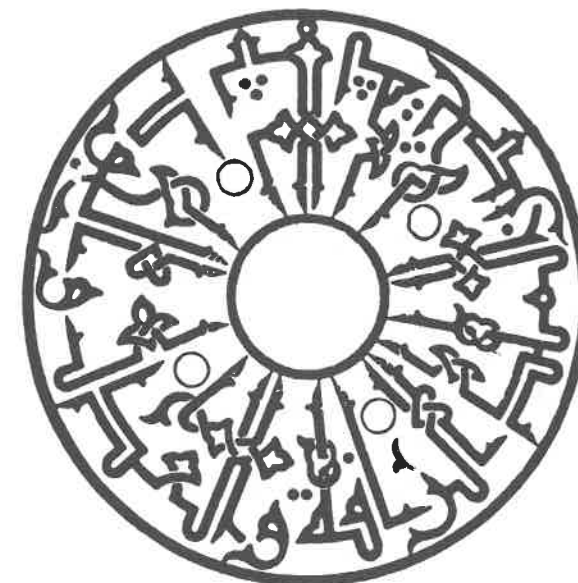
Words to Remember:

al-Ansab, *al-Azlam*, alcoholism, *al-Khamr*, *al-Maisir*, civilization, games of chance.

The Quranic Study

Drinking is an addictive habit. Allah prohibited it in stages. Read the following verses to see how gradual the order was.

al-Baqarah, 2:219; *al-Nisa'*, 4:43; *al-Ma'idah*, 5:90



LESSON 13

GHAZWAH OF AHZAB OR GHAZWAH OF KHANDAQ

(The Battle of the Ditch)

Fifth Year of Hijrah

For a long time it looked as if everyone was against the Muslims. The powerful Quraish, the Arab tribes, the *Munafiqun*, the Jews -- all were united and ready to destroy them. However, the Muslims were not scared. Rasulullah (S) had spent this time removing the weaknesses of the Muslims and building their character. Allah's *Wahi* told the Muslims what they must do to become successful.

The opponents of Islam knew they had a good opportunity to destroy the Muslims. They started uniting for a showdown. Some Jewish leaders from Khaibar went to Makkah and met the Makkan leader, Abu Sufyan. They wanted the Makkans to lead a final attack. Abu Sufyan agreed. These Jews then went to other tribes. The Quraish also sent their representatives to all the Arab tribes. All of them reached agreements and formed alliances (*Ahzab*).

The Makkans and their allies collected an army of twenty-four thousand¹. The Quraish and the Jews were rich. They armed their men the best they could. "It is going to be the last war. There will not be any Muslims left after this," they thought.

Compared to this large army, the Muslims had only three thousand men. Rasulullah (S), as usual, discussed the war plans with the *Sahabah*(R). Salman al-Farsi, a Muslim *Sahabi* from Persia, told the Prophet(S) a new method of defense. He told him that in Persia they dig a ditch (*Khandaq*) around the city. The enemy force cannot easily jump the ditch. The defenders fight only those who are able to cross the ditch. In this way, small numbers can defend the city against a powerful army. Rasulullah(S) liked the plan.

There were *Sahabah*(R) who wanted to go all out to fight the enemies and die in the way of Allah. But when Rasulullah(S) made the decision, everyone

¹. According to some accounts the army was 10,000

accepted. An army of three thousand came out to dig a ditch in front of the city. A mountain protected them in the rear. Rasulullah(S) worked harder than any one of them. His example inspired the Muslims. The Muslims defended themselves from behind a ditch so it is called the Battle of the Ditch or *Ghazwah al-Khandaq*.

The Muslims were small in number. The *Munafiqun*, knowing the weakness of the Muslims, left. Rasulullah(S) decided to seek help from the Jews of Banu Quraida to come and help the Muslims according to their agreement. But they refused. In fact, they had a secret agreement with the *Kuffar* and were waiting for the defeat of the Muslims to join the armies of the *Kuffar*. When Rasulullah(S) heard this he said, "Allah is sufficient for us. He is our best friend."

The treachery of Banu Quraida made the city unsafe for women and children. The Prophet(S) had to leave five hundred Muslims to defend the city. Three thousand went to face the huge and powerful army of the enemies of Allah.

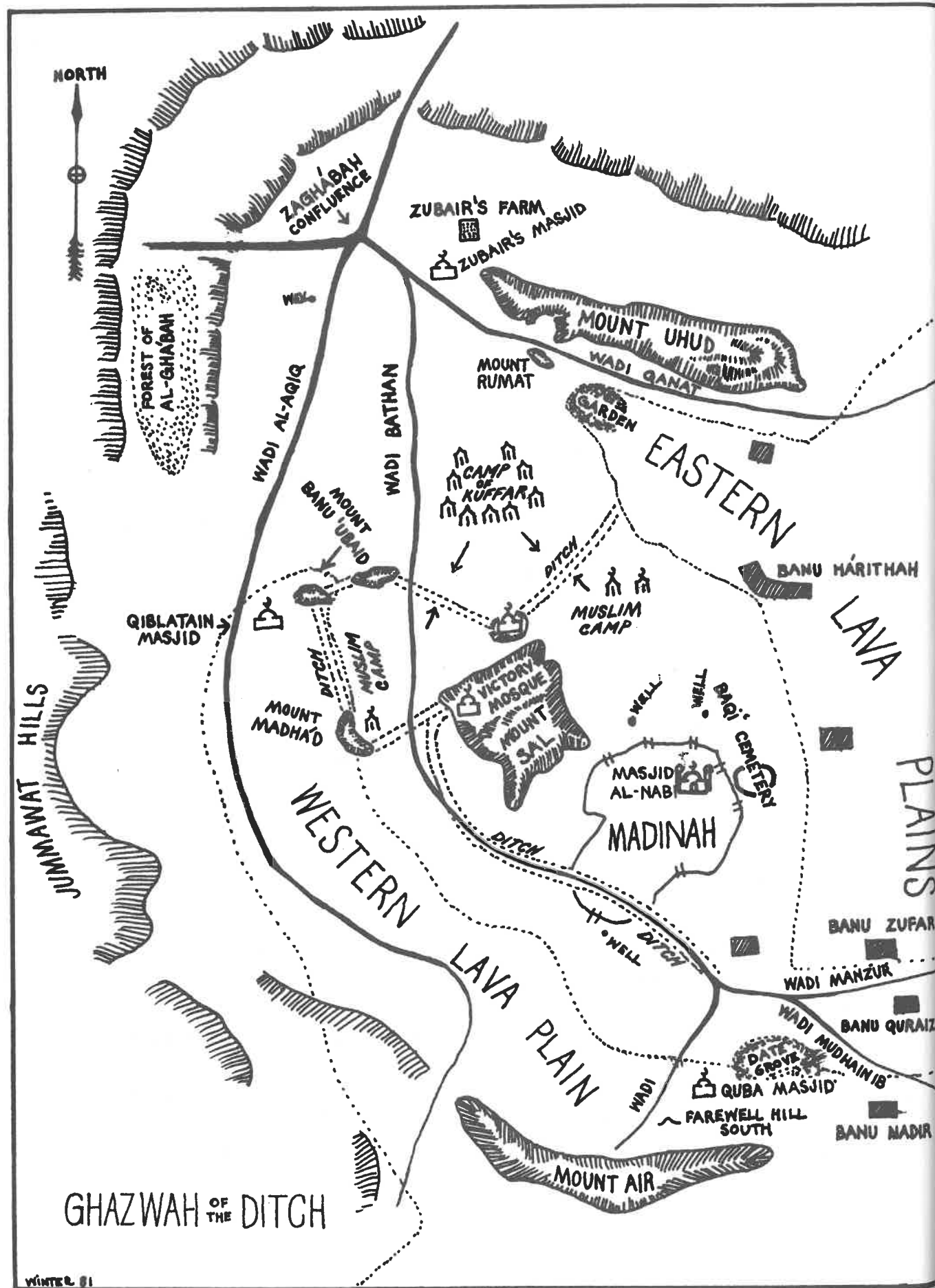
When *Kuffar* reached the ditch they were puzzled. They had not seen this kind of defense before. Many of them climbed over the ditch but Muslim soldiers took care of them. The *Kuffar* decided to wait, hoping that the Muslims would get tired and surrender. The Muslims were firm. The Muslim army continued to say their regular *Salat* five times a day.

The Muslims were surrounded on three sides. They had no strength to attack the enemy and drive them away. Their supplies were running out. The *Munafiqun* enjoyed seeing the Muslims in this situation. They were hoping that in a few more days the battle would end with the complete destruction of the Muslims. One *Munafiq* sarcastically remarked, "Muhammad had been promised the treasures of *Kaiser* (Caesar) and *Kisra* (Khusraw) by Allah and look at the Muslims. They cannot go even to use the toilets."

The *Munafiq* was right about Rasulullah's promise and the serious situation of Muslims; but he did not know that Allah had decided to fulfil the promise of His *Rasul*. The response of the Muslims in this situation was just the opposite of *Munafiqun*. They were overjoyed to see the opportunity to serve Islam, and their faith increased. The Quran verifies their faith,

When the believers saw the *Kuffar*, they said, "This is exactly what had Allah and His *Rasul* promised. Allah and His *Rasul* are true." This confrontation further confirmed them in their faith.

al-Ahzab, 33:22



One day, the Kuffar made one big effort. Many Kuffar jumped the ditch. Some of them fell in the ditch and died. The Muslims fought bravely and killed or chased them. Ali (R) killed the most famous Arab Warrior, Amr bin Wudd. It was a hard day. On that day, several Muslims missed their Asr prayer.

Several days passed. The supplies of Muslims almost ran out. For several days they were on the point of starvation. Whatever little they had, they shared. In fact, there was not much left to share.

The Kuffar sent their spies to the Jews of Banu Quraida in Madinah. They wanted Banu Quraida to attack the city. The Jews of Banu Quraida were careful. Before they acted they wanted to make sure about the defeat of the Muslims. They also knew that Madinah was defended by five hundred brave Muslims. The Jews decided to send their spies to see the situation in Madinah.

One day, the Jews sent a spy to the women's quarters to find how well they were defended. Some Muslim women noticed the spy. Safya(R), an aunt of the Prophet(S), came out with a stick and hit the spy on the head. He died immediately. This incident created such a fear in the Jews that they decided to wait.

The situation was becoming worse but the Muslims were patient. One evening after a day's fight, Rasulallah(S) raised his hands and prayed to Allah,

O Allah, You have revealed Your book. You swiftly take into account Your enemies. You defeat the enemies. O Allah, defeat them. Make them tremble with fear.

Allah had tested the faith of the Muslims. He heard the prayer of His Rasul(S). That night, a fierce cold wind blew. It was so strong that it tore up the tents of the enemy. There was confusion. Some of their leaders started arguing and quarrelling among themselves.

The Jews were the first to leave. They went and stayed with their brothers Banu Quraida in Madina. They wanted to wait and see. They could join the war if the Muslims were defeated. But the Arabs also started leaving. One by one the Arab tribesmen left. Then the Quraish went away.

The Kuffar were defeated by a force which no one saw but which the Muslims knew. The Quran refers to this event and says,

O believers, remember Allah's favor upon you when the enemy forces came to attack you. We sent against them fierce wind and an army that you did not see. *Surah 33:9*

This was a unique and unparalleled success; an example of successful war strategy, courage, vigilance, patience and faith. Every commander would be proud of his victory. Rasulallah(S), even on the day of such a great success, remained humble. He claimed no credit for the success. Instead, he raised his hand in thankfulness to Allah for *Dua* and prayed,

There is no god but Allah,
He is One,
He made His army strong,
Helped His servnt (Muhammad);
He alone overpowered the enemy.

The Muslims returned to their homes with feeling of gratefulness to Allah(S) and His Prophet(S). But they felt very angry at the behaviour of their allies, the Jews of Banu Quraida. These people had broken their agreement two times earlier. They did it once again at a time of greatest peril for the Muslims of Madinah. Banu Quraida also gave refuge to the Jewish tribes who came to fight the Muslims. The Muslims thought if these people were allowed to stay in Madinah they would be a constant danger to the Muslims. The Muslims had asked the Jews for cooperation and peace. What they got in return were stabs in the back, conspiracies, and plots to kill their Prophet(S).

The Muslim army, after the victory of Khandaq, went straight to the castles of Banu Quraida. The Jews, as usual, locked themselves in. For several days they were surrounded. Finally, they agreed to surrender to Sa'd bin Ma'adh al-Ansari (R) instead of to Rasulallah(S). Rasulallah(S) agreed to the terms of the Jews.

Sa'd (R) asked the Jews how they wanted their affairs to be decided, according to Jewish law or Muslim law. The Jews said, according to the Jewish law. So Sa'd, according to Jewish law¹, decided that their warriors would be killed and their

¹Deuteronomy 20:13-14 describes the punishment for the cities which are far off thus:

...and when the Lord your God gives it into your hand you shall put all its males to the sword, but the women and the little ones, the cattle and everything else in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as booty for yourselves, and you shall enjoy the spoil for yourself, which the Lord your God has given you.

This punishment prescribed for the people of the distant cities, was given to the Jews. It was in fact a lenient punishment.

According to the Bible, the punishment which they deserved was,

"...but in the cities of these people that the Lord your God has given you, you shall save nothing that breathes, but you shall utterly destroy them." See Deuteronomy 20:16.

women and children be distributed among the Muslims. The Prophet(S) did not interfere with the decision of Sa'd(R). The Jews did not trust Rasulallah(S), and Allah did not want His *Rasul* to deal with them any more.

POINTS OF REVIEW:

- * A large army of Makkans, Arab tribes, and Jews attacked Madinah, and Muslims defended themselves from behind a ditch.
- * A fierce wind sent by Allah dispersed the *Kuffar* army.
- * The Jews of Banu Quraida were punished for their treachery at a very difficult time.

Words to Remember:

Ahzab, Khandaq, sarcastic, showdown

Names to Remember:

Abu Sufyan, Banu Quraidah, Sa'd bin Ma'adh al-Ansari, Salman al-Farsi

The Quranic Study

1. Read *Surah al-Ahzab*, 33:9-25. Note the reactions of i) the *Munafiqun*, ii) the *Kuffar* and iii) the Muslims in the war. How does Allah respond to the reactions of these groups?
2. Read verses 33:26-27. What punishment does Allah prescribe for the Banu Quraidah for their treachery?
3. Because of their disobedience the Jews were punished by Allah. Read *al-Baqarah* 2:61; *al-Ma'idah* 5:63; *al-I'raf* 7: 166, 167, 168.



Lower level: *al-'azmat lillāh*, "Greatness belong to God".
Upper level, upside down: *as-shukr lillāh*, "Thanks to God".

LESSON 14

THE TREATY OF HUDAIBIYAH

Sixth Year of Hijrah

Kabah was built by Prophet Ibrahim(A) and his son Prophet Ismail (A). It was the center of worship for all the Arabs. The Arabs stopped their wars during the four months of Hajj. No one could be prevented from worshipping there. To stop anyone from visiting Kabah was against the law of Arabia. But the *Kuffar* did not care about the law when it came to the Muslims.

After the victory of *Ghazwah of al-Ahzab*, Rasulallah(S) saw a dream; he was making *Tawaf* of Kabah with his followers. He saw in it an indication from Allah to perform *Umrah*.

In the month of *Dhul Qi'dah* in 6 A.H. Rasulallah(S) declared his intention to go to Makkah to perform *Umrah*. The Muslims were overjoyed. Fourteen hundred of them decided to go with him. The *Muharijun* had not seen their homes or performed *Hajj* for the last six years. They were especially happy.

The love of one's country is natural among humans. The *Muharijun* left Makkah in the way of Allah but they always missed it. Rasulallah(S) knew about their feelings. He always prayed to Allah, "O Allah, make the city of Madinah dear to us as you made Makkah dear to us — or even more so." The purpose of Rasulallah(S) was not to fight or to go to his home in Makkah but to perform *Umrah* and come back to Madinah. The Muslims took with them *Hadyi*, the animals for the sacrifice.

When the Makkans received the news, they started making war preparations. As Muslims approached Makkah, a few young *Kuffar* warriors came out to fight them. The Muslims had no intention of fighting. They arrested these people. They were presented to Rasulallah(S). He told them, "Our intention is only to perform *Umrah*. You can go and tell the Makkans."

The Quraish sent Arwah as their representative to talk to him. Rasulallah(S) told him, "The Muslims intend to do a peaceful *Umrah* for the sake of Allah. The Muslims do not want a war."

The Makkan representative saw the devotion and love of the Muslims for their Prophet(S). He went back and told the Quraish,

I have visited the courts of the emperors of Rome, Iran and Abyssenia. I found no one so popular among his subjects as Muhammad is among his followers. I have never seen a people more united and devoted than the Companions of Muhammad. If you fight with him, his friends will fight. They will die but they will never leave him.

He told the Makkans to allow the Muslims to perform *Umrah*. The Makkans were in no mood to permit the Muslims to enter Makkah. They continued their war preparations.

Rasulallah(S) then sent Uthman bin Affan(R), his son-in-law, to the Makkans. Uthman(R) was himself a Quraish. Because of his family ties he was respected by many of the Makkans. But the Makkans did not agree to the request.

Uthman(R) did not return for a long time. There was a rumor that the *Kuffar* killed him. Now Rasulallah(S) and the Muslims were very angry and wanted to punish the evildoers.

Rasulallah (S) sat under a tree and took the *Bai'ah* (oath) from the *Sahabah(R)*, to die fighting for Islam but not to turn their backs. This *Bai'ah* is called the *Bai'ah of al-Ridwan*. Allah had shown His pleasure for those who took this *Bai'ah*. The Muslims were now eager to fight.

After some time, the Muslims learned that Uthman(R) was safe. The *Kuffar* also learned that the Muslims were ready to fight. The People in Makkah knew very well that when the Muslims go to *Jihad* their aim is to become *Shahid*. The *Kuffar* had second thoughts. Now they wanted to prevent a war. They sent their representative to make a peace agreement with the Muslims.

The conditions presented by the Makkans did not favor the Muslims. Many Muslims did not like these terms. Rasulallah(S) wanted peace and he accepted them. These were the conditions:

- * The Muslims should go back without *Umrah* this year.
- * Next year they could perform *Umrah* and stay for **not** more than three days.
- * If any Makkan becomes a Muslim and goes to Madinah, he must be returned.
- * If a Muslim becomes a *Kafir* and comes to Makkah he will not be returned.

- * Arab tribes will be free to have an agreement with either the Makkans or the Muslims.
- * The agreement would last for ten years.

Many Muslims became unhappy with the treaty. The Muslims were strong and ready to fight. Their cause was just. "Why should we have this kind of treaty?" many of them objected.

The Prophet(S) said, "I am Rasulallah. I do what Allah asks me to do. Allah will help me in my decision." The Muslims then accepted his decision and obeyed him. Because the treaty was signed in Hudaibiyah, it is called the Treaty of Hudaibiyah.

Allah, in the Quran, called this treaty "A clear victory."¹ How could a treaty not favorable to the Muslims be called "a clear victory?" The Muslims believed in Allah and His Rasul(S). They said Allah and His Rasul (S) know best. Only the future would tell how this treaty could prove a great victory.

The Muslims had fought for six years. They needed peace. Only in peace could everyone get to know the true nature of Islam.

As soon as Rasulallah(S) signed the agreement, a new Muslim convert, Abu Jandal(R), came running from Makkah. He was put in chains by the *Kuffar*. He told the Muslims how the *Kuffar* tortured him. The Makkans, according to the agreement, wanted him back. The condition of Abu Jandal(R) made the Muslims very sad. But Rasulallah(S) did not want to break his word.

The Prophet(S) told Abu Jandal(R), "Be patient. Have faith in Allah. Allah will find some way for you and other innocent Muslims. We have made the promise. Muslims do not go back on their word."

Abu Jandal (R) patiently accepted Rasulallah's decision. He went back with the *Kuffar*. Rasulallah(S) predicted that Abu Jandal(R) will lead an army against the Makkans. We shall later see how this prophecy was fulfilled.

Rasulallah(S) stayed three days in Hudaibiyah. The Muslims could not perform *Umrah*. The Prophet(S) asked them to sacrifice their animals and shave their heads to show their intention of *Umrah*.

The next year, the Muslims went to Makkah for *Umrah*. The Makkans left the city for three days in the care of the Muslims. The Muslims performed

¹ al-Fath 48:1

Umrah in peace and left after three days according to the agreement. Rasulallah's dream was thus made a reality by Allah. But that was not all. That was only the beginning of the great victory which the Quran predicted so clearly and forcefully.

Points of Review:

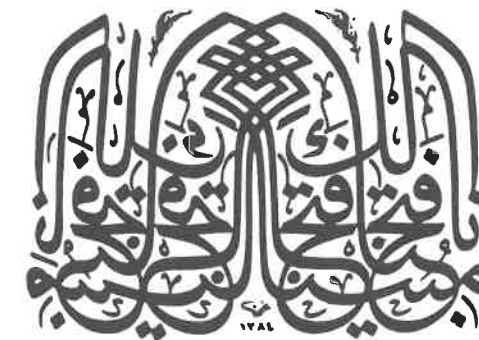
- * The treaty of Hudaibiyah did not favor the Muslims but the Quran called it "a clear victory."
- * Rasulallah(S) returned Abu Jandal (R) to the Makkans to honor his agreement.
- * The Muslims came to perform *Umrah* the following year.

Words to Remember:

Bai'ah, prophecy, representative, treaty, *Umrah*

Names to Remember:

Abu Jandal(R), Arwah, Hudaibiyah, Uthman bin Affan(R)



LESSON 15

HUDAIBIYAH: A GREAT VICTORY

Rasulullah (S) and his party were on their way to Madinah when Rasulullah(S) received the *Surah, al-Fath* (The Victory). The Quran described the Treaty of Hudaibiyah "a clear victory." Revelation said, "Indeed We have given you a clear victory." *al-Fath*, 48:1. Many *Sahabah* (R) at that time did not understand this description but they accepted it. They knew the decision of Allah and His *Rasul*(S) was best for them.

The Quran further promised,

Truly, Allah has fulfilled the vision of His Prophet. You shall enter the *Masjid al-Haram*, if Allah wills, in peace, heads shaved, (or) hair cut short, and without any fear. For Allah knows what you do not know. And He granted before this a speedy victory.

al-Fath, 48:27

The true meaning of "clear victory" and "Speedy Victory" would become known to the people soon. In fact, Islam is a religion of peace and always tries to avoid war. Other people can see the superiority of Islam only if they once meet Muslims, see them practice Islam, and learn about it from them.

Continuous war with the Makkans had not allowed other pagan Arab tribes to visit Madinah and meet the Muslims. The Makkans and their Jewish and *Munafiq* allies had the opportunity to go the other Arabs and spread false rumours about Rasulullah(S) and the Muslims. Now the Arab tribes and the Makkans had a chance to come to Madinah and visit the Prophet(S).

The Makkans and other Arabs started coming to Madinah. They saw the charming and loving personality of Rasulullah(S). They heard him recite the Quran. They spent some time in *Masjid al-Nabi* with other *Sahabah* (R). Many of them became Muslims. During the next one and a half years more Arabs accepted Islam than they did during the previous eighteen years.

It was at this time that Khalid bin Walid, the famous Makkan general (Remember that he attacked the Muslims through the pass at Uhud.) came to Rasulullah(S) and accepted Islam. Amr bin al-As, another famous Makkan

general, also became a Muslim. Both, Khalid and Amr would be great generals and conquerors for Islam.

Now the Muslims understood the meaning of the Quranic revelation. There was another clear promise in the *Surah al-Fath* about the future of Islam. As the Muslims recited the verses, their faith grew stronger. They looked forward to the time about which the Quran spoke so forcefully and clearly.

It is Allah who has sent His *Rasul* with guidance and the Religion of Truth to make His religion predominant over all religions. Allah is enough (for the believers) as a witness.

al-Fath, 48:28

Points of Review:

- * Islam is a religion of peace and always tries to avoid war.
- * The Arab *Kuffar* came to Madinah, saw the Prophet (S) and the Muslims, and many accepted Islam.
- * Khalid bin Walid and Amr bin al-As accepted Islam.

Names to Remember:

Amr bin al-As, Bai'ah al-Ridwan, Khalid bin Walid

The Quranic Study

Read the following verses of *Surah al-Fath*. Understand their teachings.

48:1-7 — about victory

48:8-9 — about the mission of Rasulullah(S)

48:10, 18-21 — about those who made *Bai'ah al-Ridwan*

48:25 — about one of the reasons for this agreement

48:27-28 — about promises of the future

48:29 — about the characteristics of Rasulullah(S) and *Sahabah* (R)



THIS IS BY THE GRACE OF MY LORD.

LESSON 16

ISLAM: A MESSAGE FOR MANKIND

Prophet Muhammad(S) was born in Arabia, but he was sent for all the people of the world. The Quran calls our Prophet(S) "*Rahmatun li al-Alamin*", a mercy for all humanity. 31:107. Islam is a religion for all mankind. The Quran says, "Blessed is Allah Who has reveled the Quran to His servant Muhammad that he be a warner to all mankind. *al-Furqan* 25:1.

From the very beginning, there were many non-Arabs among the *Sahabah* of Rasulullah(S). But so far, Islam had reached mainly the Arab people. Now the time had come to take this message to everyone in the world.

Rasulullah(S) invited his *Sahabah*(R) and told them, "I am sent by Allah as a mercy to all mankind. Allah wants you to carry this message of Islam to the world. Be united and differ not among you as did the disciples of Isa (A)."

Rasulullah(S) dictated letters to the kings and rulers of Rome, Iran, Egypt, and Ethiopia and several other rulers and chiefs. The letters invited them to Islam. These rulers were mighty and powerful. At that time, Rasulullah(S) was no more than a chief of a small city-state. But he had the truth on his side. And one who has the truth is indeed most powerful. The texts of these letters came down to us from Muslim historians.

We can see in these letters the clarity of the message and firmness of faith. The letter to Caesar, Emperor of Rome reads,

In the name of Allah the Mercy-giving, the Merciful. This letter is from Muhammad to Herculus, the Emperor of Rome.

Blessed are the people who follow guidance. I invite you to accept Islam. If you do so you shall be saved and be secured. If you accept the fold of Islam, Allah will give you double the rewards. In case you refuse, then the burden of the sins of your people shall fall on your shoulders.

O "People of the Book!" Come to the word that is common between us and between you that we shall worship none save Allah . . .

Caesar, the Emperor of Rome received the letter of Rasulullah(S) in *al-Quds* where he was on a visit. He wanted to know about this Arab chief who could write such a frank letter to a powerful emperor. By chance, Abu

Sufyan, the leader of the Makkan *Kuffar*, was on a business trip in Jerusalem (*al-Quds*). The emperor invited him and talked to him.

Caesar: What is the family of this prophet like?

Abu Sufyan: It is a noble family.

Caesar: Are the people who accepted Islam weak or strong?

Abu Sufyan: Mostly they are weak.

Caesar: Are his followers increasing or decreasing?

Abu Sufyan: Increasing.

Caesar: Did he ever tell a lie?

Abu Sufyan: Never.

Caesar: Does he ever break his promise?

Abu Sufyan: Not so far. Now we have an agreement (*Hudaibiyah*). We have to see if he stands by this agreement.

Caesar: What does he teach?

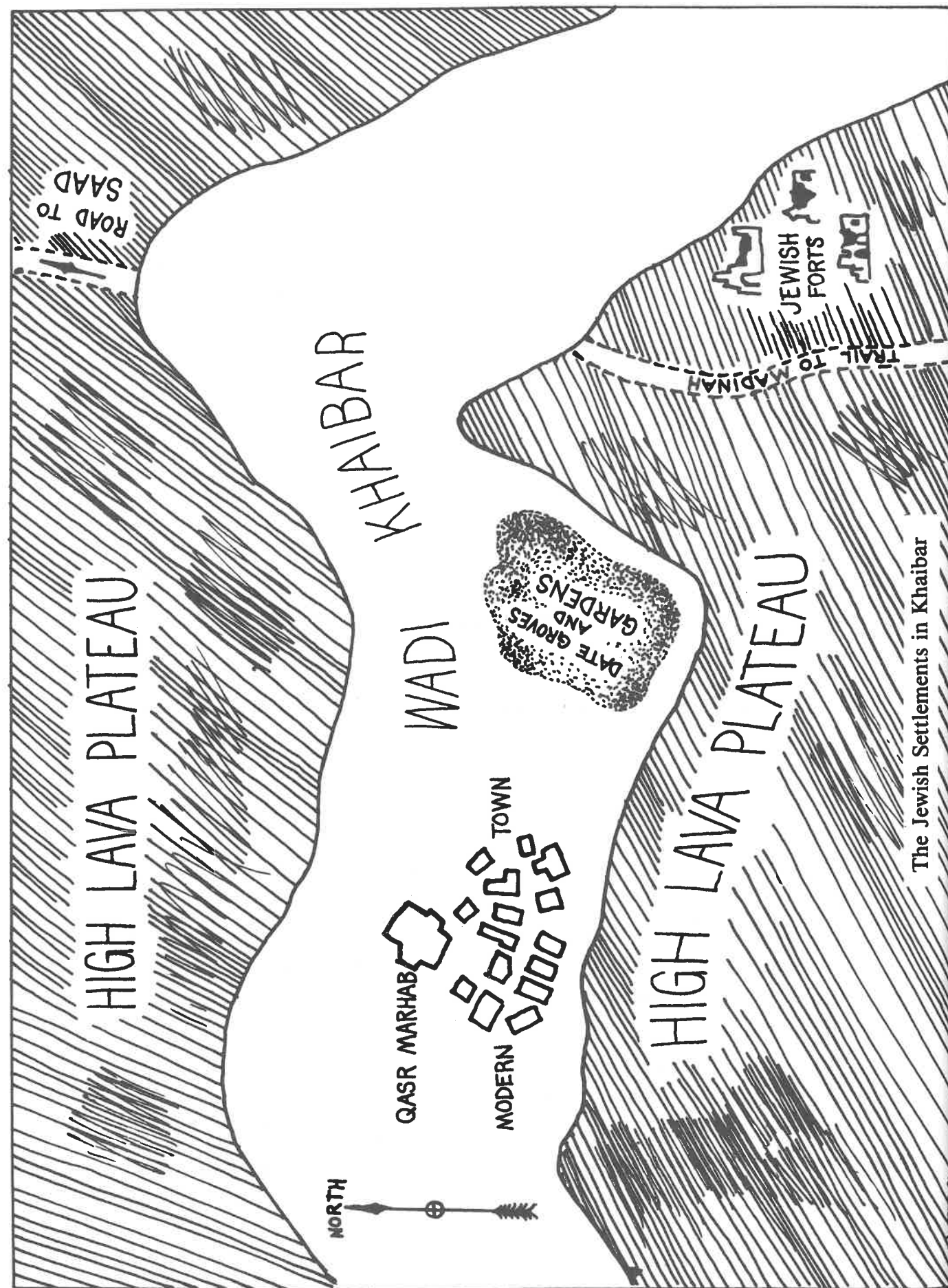
Abu Sufyan: He teaches, "Worship only one God. Don't accept any partners with Him. Offer *Salat*. Be pure in your life. Speak the truth. Be kind and considerate to each other."

Caesar was very impressed by Abu Sufyan's statement, especially since it came from someone who was an enemy of Islam. Caesar said, "It seems that Muhammad is a true prophet. If he is a true prophet, he might conquer even my empire. I wish I could visit him."

Caesar was Emperor of the biggest Christian empire. His ministers and clergy did not like his remarks. They silenced him. However, within twenty-five years most of his Eastern Empire was captured by the Muslims.

The Iranian Emperor, Khusraw Parvez, read the letter and became very angry. His empire spread as far as Yemen in South Arabia. He thought Muhammad(S) was his subject and under his authority. He tore up the letter and told the governor of Yemen, "Arrest this man Muhammad and present him to me."

The governor of Yemen sent two officers to arrest Rasulullah(S). When these officers came to him he said, "Your Emperor is already killed. Go back and tell



your governor that the Islamic state will reach the capital of your empire." The two officers later discovered that the emperor was killed by his son. At that time, no one could believe that within five years a small Muslim army would capture the capital of Iran.

The ruler of Ethiopia had already protected the Muslims and had become a Muslim. He said *Shahadah* once again. Other Ethiopian emperors remained Christian. But they had the blessings of Rasulullah (S) for their good treatment of the Muslims. The dynasty lasted until 1974 when the last emperor was overthrown. This emperor reversed the policy of his ancestors to protect Muslims. He killed the Muslims and expelled them from his country.

The Egyptian ruler did not accept Islam. But he received the Muslims kindly. He sent them back with many gifts. Prophet Muhammad's letter to the Egyptian ruler is still in the Topkapi Museum in Turkey. Egypt was conquered by Umar bin al-'As(R) seven years later.

Rasulullah(S) continued to send such letters and special missions to the people and tribes. Some ambassadors of Rasulullah (S) were killed by the *Kuffar* tribes or Christian rulers. After the conquest of Makkah the number of *Da'wah* (inviting to Islam) delegations and preachers sent by Rasulullah(S) increased considerably. In fact, after the peace of Hudaibiyah many tribes themselves took the invitations and sent their delegation to Rasulullah(S) to accept Islam.

The Eastern Roman Empire (now called Turkey), Egypt, and Iran are now great Muslim nations. Each of them played an important role in the spread and expansion of Islam.

The defeat of the *Kuffar* and the end of Banu Quraida had excited the anger of the Jews in Khaibar. They started organizing their forces against the Muslims.

When Rasulullah(S) found out about this challenge, he decided to take the initiative and end the conspiracy. A Muslim army of sixteen hundred left Madinah for the first time to take a preventive action.

The Jews in Khaibar were well fortified. Their castles had twenty thousand well armed soldiers. For twenty days the Muslims kept the seige. There were several encounters. In one encounter Ali(R) killed the most renowned warrior of the Jews. The killing spread fear and panic in the ranks of the Jews.

They knew how hopeless their situation was. They had seen the end of Banu Quraida in Madinah. They decided to surrender to Rasulallah(S). Their leaders discussed the matter and Rasulallah(S) pardoned the Jews and allowed them to stay in Khaibar. He levied a tax on their land for the Muslim state of Madinah.

- * Rasulallah(S) invited the emperors and kings of his time to Islam.
- * Within a short time, these powerful empires were conquered by the Muslims.
- * The Jews of Khaibar surrendered. They were pardoned and allowed to stay in Khaibar.

Words to Remember:

Caesar, Khaibar, Khusraw Parvez, Topkapi Museum

The Quranic Study

Many orientalists (Western scholars of Islam) maintain that the mission of Rasulallah(S) was only for the Arabs and Islam spread to non-Arabs as an accident. Read the following verses to see the universal character of Islam.

1. Allah is the Lord of all. *al-Baqarah*, :1; *al-Falaq*, 113 and *Surah al-Nas*, 114.
2. Muhammad's mission is for all mankind, *al-I'raf* 7:158; *al-Ra'd* 13:7; *al-Ambiya'* 21:107; *al-Ahzab* 33:40, 45, 46; *Saba* 34:28, *al-Fath* 48:8, 9
3. Islam as a universal religion. *Ali 'Imran* 3:19, 20, 83-87, *al-Maidah*, 5:3, *al-Shura* 42: 13-15; *al-Jathiyah*, 45:18, *al-Saff*, 61:9.



THERE IS NO GOD BUT YOU. GLORY BE TO YOU. VERILY! I WAS DOING WRONG TO MYSELF.

LESSON 17

THE LIBERATION OF MAKKAH

Eighth Year of Hijrah

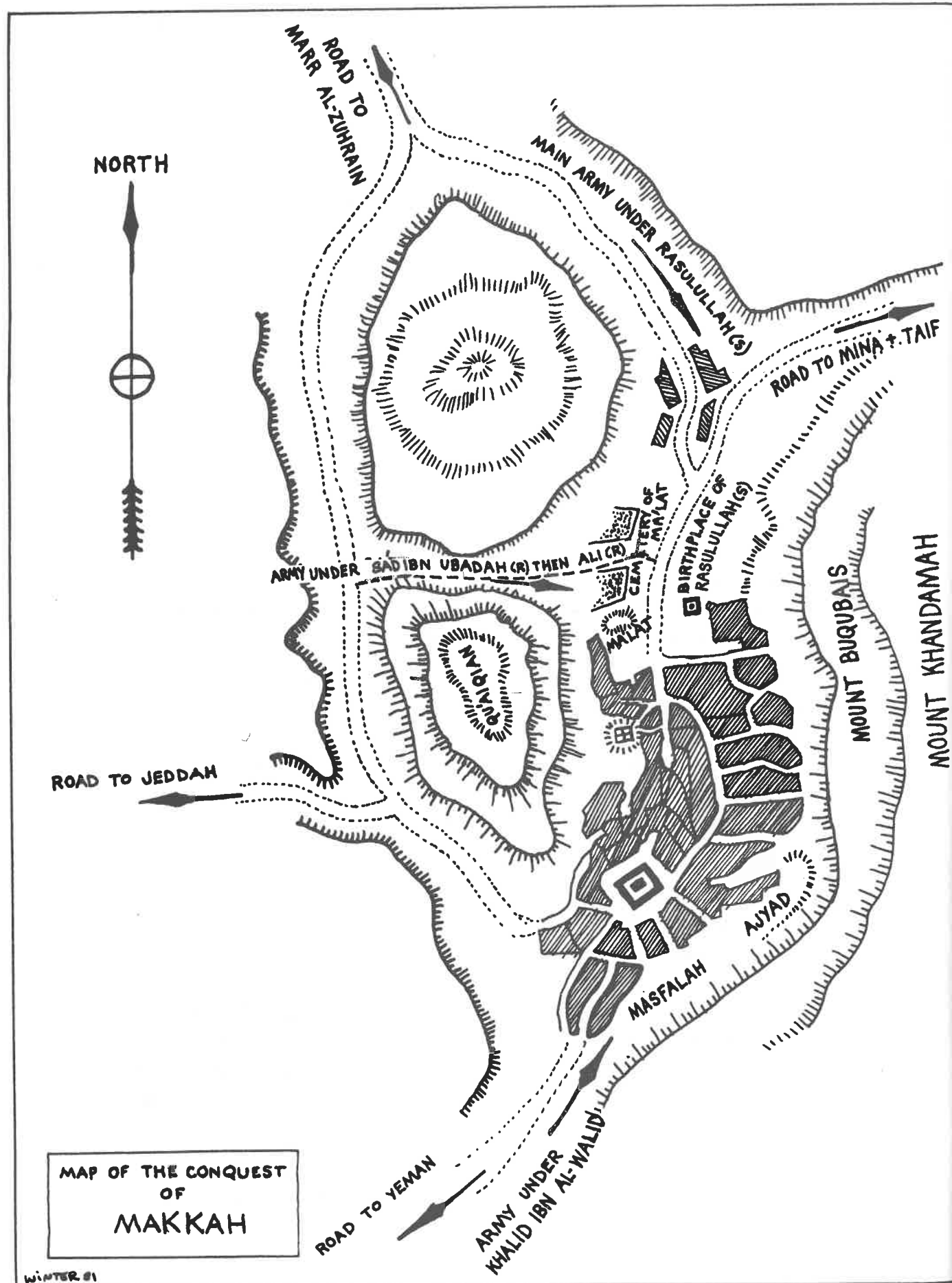
The *Kuffar* soon found out how the agreement of Hudaibiyah was helping the Muslims. Some of them wanted to break it. After one and a half years, the *Kuffar* broke the agreement by attacking the tribe of Banu Khaza'a, which had a friendship treaty with the Muslims. The efforts of Rasulallah (S) to keep peace with the Makkans failed.

In fact, the time had come for the Muslims to take the initiative. Rasulallah(S) now started making preparations to liberate Makkah from the *Kuffar* and purify *Bait Allah* (Kabah) from the idols. Allah wanted the Kabah to be made once again a center for all Muslims. It was time for the fulfillment of Allah's promise to break the power of the *Kuffar* once and for all. When Rasulallah(S) told his intention to march on Makkah, the Muslims were overjoyed. Many other Muslim tribes also welcomed Rasulallah's message.

It was the biggest event in the short history of Islam. The helpless Muslims had been expelled from their homes seven years before. Now they were strong enough to challenge the *Kuffar* in their home country. This was the day which Allah had promised the Muslims in Makkah, at a time when they were persecuted and weak. The *Kuffar* had laughed then at such promises. They would not laugh any longer. The Muslims had believed in Allah's promises and had prayed for this day.

Led by Rasulallah(S) on the tenth of Ramadan, in the eighth year of *Hijrah*, a Muslim army of ten thousand marched on Makkah. This was an army which was fasting for the sake of Allah. On their way they offered regular *Salat*. Many Muslim tribes joined as the army marched toward Makkah. On the way to Makkah, Rasulallah (S) saw his uncle, Abbas, coming from Makkah. Abbas had always been kind to Rasulallah(S) but he had not accepted Islam. Now he was coming to Madinah to become a Muslim. Rasulallah(S) was very pleased to accept Abbas to the fold of Islam. Abbas(R) became a soldier in the Muslim army.

When the Makkans heard the news, their leader Abu Sufyan himself and another *Kafir* Budail went out to confirm the news. He saw the army from a hiding



place. Abbas(R) the newly converted uncle of Rasulullah(S), spotted them and arrested them. They were presented to Rasulullah(S). Abu Sufyan was the leader of the Makkani enemies. He opposed the Muslims, conspired to kill Rasulullah(S) and led military attacks on Madinah.

Any other ruler would have killed such an enemy but it was the court of Prophet of peace. Rasulullah(S) looked at both of them with affection and said, "Go in peace. You are free. Today there is no revenge. Allah is very kind."

Abu Sufyan and Budail were so moved by these words that they immediately became Muslims. Abu Sufyan (R) and Budail (R) are now remembered as devoted *Sahabah* of the Prophet(S). Rasulullah(S) then made a general declaration of amnesty (forgiveness) for all who wanted peace.

He sent Abu Sufyan(R) as an ambassador of peace to the Makkans. The Makkans lost heart when they learned that their leader was now a humble follower of Muhammad(S). Abu Sufyan(R) declared a message of peace on behalf of Rasulullah(S):

There is peace for those who enter the house of Abu Sufyan.
 There is peace for those who enter *Bait Allah*.
 There is peace for those who stay in their own homes.
 There is peace for those who do not carry arms.

Only six enemies of Islam and killers of Muslims were not pardoned.

Rasulullah(S) instructed his army as they were ready to enter Makkah to be peaceful, to respect old people, women, and children.

Rasulullah(S) appointed Khalid bin Walid (R) commander of half of the army. He asked him to enter Makkah from one side. He himself led the other half of the army and entered Makkah from the other side.

Points of Review:

- * The *Kuffar* broke the agreement of Hudaibiyah.
- * The Muslims liberated Makkah.
- * Rasulullah(S) pardoned the *Kuffar* of Makkah.

Words to Remember:

Amnesty, pardon

Names to Remember:

Abbas, Abu Sufyan, Banu Khaza'a, Khalid bin Walid

LESSON 18

THE PURIFICATION OF KABA

Rasulullah(S) and his army of followers did not come to seek revenge. They came to teach the message of Islam. Rasulallah(S) was a messenger of Allah, a mercy to all, teaching Allah's Oneness and inviting all mankind to live in peace and brotherhood. As the Muslim army advanced, their swords were in their cases. *Allahu Akbar* was on their lips.

Rasulullah(S) was mounting a camel, his head held low in humility before Allah. He recited the Quran, "Indeed, We (Allah) have given you a clear victory."

The Makkans were surprised to hear Muhammad's declaration of peace. They were even more surprised to see a conquering army entering their city with so much humility, showing no pride and seeking no revenge.

Rasulullah(S) and his Companions entered Kabah. Rasulallah(S) had a stick in his hand by which he hit the idols one by one saying, "The truth (*Haqq*) has come, the falsehood (*Batil*) has gone. The falsehood is supposed to go." The three hundred and sixty idols were removed and broken into pieces. The idols from inside the Kabah were thrown out. Then all the Muslims said *Salat* of thanks to Allah at *Maqam Ibrahim* (the Place of Ibrahim).

Once the fear of conquering Muslims was removed, many Makkans entered Kabah to see the Muslims. Among them were those who had fought the Muslims and killed many of their brothers in faith. They had expelled the Muslims from their homes and taken over their property. The *Kuffar* waited anxiously, wondering what Rasulallah(S) would do to them next.

Rasulullah(S) stood up and spoke to the crowd, saying:

There is no god but Allah. No one shares His power. He fulfilled His promise. He helped His servant Muhammad.

O people of Quraish, Allah has done away with the evil practices of *Jahiliyyah* (the days of ignorance). The pride in one's family is now gone forever. All human beings are brothers to each other. They are children of Adam. And Adam was made of clay.

From now on no one should take revenge for the blood of one's relatives. People must learn to live in peace.

Rasulullah(S) then recited a verse from the Quran,

O mankind, We have created you from male and female and created you in tribes and nations, so that you may know each other. The best amongst you is he who is most righteous.

He declared,

Allah and His messenger have forbidden drinking.

Then he looked at the Makkans, his face glowing with kindness instead of anger and asked them, "What do you think I am going to do to you?" The Makkans said, "You are our noble brother and son of our noble brother, Abdullah."

"Go in peace, no one will question you today," Rasulallah(S) told them. "You are free."

Rasulullah(S) told the *Muhajirun*, "Forgive your Makkan brothers. Do not demand your properties back from them.."

As the time of *Salat* approached, Bilal of Abyssinia (R) climbed up the roof of Kabah and said *Adhan*, "*Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar....*"

Some *Ansar* had feared that Rasulallah(S) now might like to stay in his city, Makkah. They felt sad at this thought. Allah informed him of the *Ansar's* feelings. Rasulallah(S) told them, "I am a servant of Allah. I migrated to Madinah at His command. I promised to stay with you. I shall always live with you and die with you."

The *Ansar* were very happy to hear this. All the Makkan *Muhajirun* decided to follow the footsteps of their Prophet(S). They loved him so much. They could hardly remain without him.

The Prophet(S), who taught the Muslims to remain patient when persecuted, now showed them to be generous and kind at the hours of their greatest victory.

History has no other example of this kindness and generosity and faithfulness.

Points of Review:

- * Rasulallah(S) cleansed Kabah of idols.
- * He declared the evil practices of *Jahiliyya* ended.
- * Most *Kuffar* accepted Islam.

Words to Remember:

humility, Jahilliyyah

Names to Remember:

Maqam Ibrahim

The Quranic Study

1. Read *al-Hujurat*, 49:13. See the basis of preference in Islam.
2. To understand the characteristics of Muslims, which secured them success read: *Surah al-Asr*. What are the four characteristics that are essential for success in the life and in the hereafter.
3. Rasulullah(S) said, "Allah has fulfilled His promise to His servant." The Quran has these firm promises of success for the believers spelled out in many places. Whenever you read the Quran, note specially these promises and see how Allah fulfilled them. You may, as an example, look to the following verses.

al-Nur, 24:55-57

al-Fath, 48:1-3, 20, 21, 27, 28



The names of the Seven Sleepers around that of their dog Qitmīr

LESSON 19

THE GHAZWAH OF HUNAIN

Eighth Year of Hijrah

Hawazin and Thaqif were two powerful and brave Arab tribes. They had opposed Islam vigorously. The news of the liberation of Makkah made them very unhappy. They would not allow the Muslims to control the Kabah, the house of their idols. They decided to make a last big effort against Islam. They were determined to destroy Islam or themselves.

The news came to Rasulullah(S) about gathering of a strong army by these Arab tribes, to attack Makkah. He decided to challenge the enemies before they were fully ready. So he marched from Makkah toward the tribes and met them in Hunain.

The army of the enemy was four thousand strong. The enemies brought their families and the cattle to the battlefield in order to fight to death.

The Muslim army was twelve thousand strong. It was also quite well armed this time. The Muslims felt happy to see their number and arms. Many of them forgot that it was not their number or arms, but Allah's help that brought them victories.

The valley of Hunain was surrounded by mountains. The road went through a narrow pass. The enemy archers hid themselves in the mountain pass. In the morning when the Muslim army entered the pass to go to the valley, the enemy showered them with arrows. This unexpected attack made the Muslims very nervous. Many of them, not knowing what to do, fled in every direction.

Rasulullah(S) stood on an isolated hill. The enemy spotted him and directed their full attack toward him. He stood there, fearless and full of confidence. From the hill he called to his Companions,

Come back.

I am Rasulullah.

I am not a false prophet.

I am the grandson of Abd al-Muttalib.

His uncle, Abbas(R) who had a loud voice, repeated Rasulullah's call. The Sahabah(R) heard this call. Their hearts were overjoyed to hear Rasulullah's call to them. They had realized their mistake. In response to Rasulullah's call, they answered, "Labbaika (we respond to you) Ya Rasulullah."

The Muslims had realized their mistake of relying on their numbers instead of Allah's power. They returned and threw themselves into the battle with new zeal. Now the tide turned in their favor. A fierce battle started. Soon the Kuffar tribesmen were fleeing. The Muslims chased them and arrested them. Six thousand prisoners were taken. A big *Mal-al Ghanimah* fell into the hands of the Muslims. The Muslims now fully realized that victory and defeat were not because of their numbers but by Allah's permission. Allah through a *Wahi* reminded them of this favor of Allah,

Surely Allah gave you victory on many fields as well as on the day of Hunain, when your number elated you it did not help you. The land in spite of its vastness straightened you. Then you turned away in retreat.

Thereafter, Allah sent down *Sakinah*, His peace and assurance, upon His messenger and upon the believers and He sent down the hosts of angel you did not see and punished the Kuffar.

al-Tawbah, 9:25-26

Some Kuffar fled to Ta'if and took refuge in a fort there. The Muslim army advanced and laid a siege on the fort of Ta'if. After one month, Rasulullah(S) lifted the siege and prayed to Allah for the people of Ta'if to accept Islam. Allah accepted the prayers of His Prophet and a year later the people of Ta'if became Muslims.

Rasulullah(S) distributed the wealth and prisoners according to Islamic law. Soon the people of various Kuffar tribes which belonged to Bani Sa'd (the tribe of Halimah(R), the prophet's nurse) approached him for his forgiveness. He remembered the kindness of his foster mother and other foster relatives and willingly left his share and freed the prisoners. When the Sahabah(R) learned this, they followed Rasulullah's *Sunnah* and did the same. The Arab tribesmen saw Rasulullah's generosity and the Sahabah's love for their Prophet(S). Most of them became Muslims and became the devoted Sahabah(R) of Rasulullah.

Rasulullah(S) returned to Madinah with his Sahabah(R). Some people of Madinah had feared that after the conquest of Makkah Rasulullah(S) and the Muhajirun would not return to Madinah but Rasulullah told them,

If people would go through a valley and the Ansar go through another valley, I would go through the valley of the Ansar.

The Ansar were moved by the words of Rasulullah(S). Some of them even wept. After the great victory of Makkah and Hunain, he returned to Madinah.

Now Rasulullah(S) was the undisputed religious and political leader of almost all of Arabia.

Points of Review:

- * In the battle of Hunain, the Muslims became proud of their large numbers; they were defeated by the enemy.
- * Rasulullah(S) called the fleeing Muslims to come back; a Muslim victory followed.
- * Prisoners of war and booty fell to the Muslims but soon the prisoners were released and the booty returned.

Words to Remember:

Foster-mother, undisputed

Names to Remember:

Bani Sa'd, Halimah, Hawazin, Thaqif.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

VERILY! ALLAH PROVIDES SUSTENANCE TO WHOM HE WILLS WITHOUT ANY ACCOUNT OR MEASURE.

LESSON 20

THE CHALLENGE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Eighth and Ninth Year of *Hijrah*

The letters of Rasulullah(S) to the Roman Emperor brought him to the attention of the powerful Roman Empire. This empire was far too big and far too powerful to be concerned about Rasulullah's power.

The empire had many Arab Christian rulers as its clients and allies. Rasulullah(S) had sent his *Sahabah(R)* to invite them to Islam also. Shurjil, the ruler of Basra, killed the *Sahabi*, Harith bin Amir(R), who brought him Rasulullah's letter. In the eighth year of *Hijrah*, Rasulullah(S) sent a force of three thousand soldiers to punish this ruler. At the head of the army was Zaid(R), the freed slave of Rasulullah(S). Next to him in order were Jafar(R), a cousin of Rasulullah(S), Abdullah bin Rawaha(R), a prominent Ansari, and Khalid bin Walid(R), the famous Quraish general. It was beneath the dignity of a high born Arab to be led by a former slave but Islam had now changed the whole outlook of the Muslims. Everyone obeyed Rasulullah(S), though there were still some people who did not like this choice.

Shurjil organized an army of one hundred thousand. The emperor sent another one hundred thousand soldiers to support Shurjil.

At the field of Mu'tah, three thousand Muslims met the powerful army of the Romans. Zaid(R), Jafar(R) and Rawahah(R) died one by one leading the Muslim army. Then Khalid bin Walid(R) took the command of the army. Khalid(R) was a brilliant general. The Muslims were full of faith and zeal. They knew that their small numbers made victory almost impossible for them. They could have returned to Madinah but they decided to fight. For a Muslim who goes to *Jihad* to become a *Shahid* to please Allah, there is no turning back.

As the war continued, the Muslims were surprised to see their resistance. Soon the Roman army retreated, perhaps to recuperate. Khalid bin Walid then gathered the remaining Muslim force and returned to Madinah. In Madinah Rasulullah(S) received the *Wahi* that informed him about the battle situation.

Rasulullah(S) told *Sahabah(R)* about the death of his cousin, whom he loved dearly, and other Muslims and the victory of Muslims through the *Saif Allah*, the

sword of Allah, as he described Khalid. From now on, Khalid's title became *Saif Allah*.

The Roman Empire now realized the danger of the Muslim state's power. The Christian clergy also realized that Islam had become a great challenge to their Christian religion. The Christians believed in the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Mariam was revered as the mother of Isa (A). They regarded Isa (A) as the Son of God.

Islam brought the message of Allah in its final form. It refuted Christian doctrines. It abolished the priestly class and established man's direct relationship with God. It gave all human beings, kings and common people, equal rights before the laws of *Shari'ah*. So both the priests and the kings became Islam's enemy.

After the battle of Mu'tah, Arab Kings and *Amirs* approached the emperor to face the rising power of Islam. The emperor asked his army generals to prepare for an assault on Madinah.

On his return from Makkah, Rasulullah(S) learned about the Roman war preparations. He had hardly rested from one campaign when he faced a greater challenge. Once again, he decided to face the enemy in his territory.

To challenge the Roman Empire was no joke. It was the biggest power of its time. Besides, the route to the north was rough through dry sand and rocky mountains and the weather was hot. The chances of a Muslim victory against such a powerful enemy were almost nil. Rasulullah(S) was in the sixty-second year of his life.

This campaign became the biggest test of Muslims' faith. All the Muslims, old and young, weak and strong, rich and poor were asked to enlist in the army and donate their money, arms, cattle, and horses to Rasulullah(S).

The Muslims knew the heavy odds against which they were working. But no questions were raised and no excuses offered. There was a general enthusiasm to find an opportunity to walk with Rasulullah(S) once again.

The *Munafiqun*, fearing the Romans, offered all kinds of excuses. They even tried to convince the Muslims not to take risks in the hot weather. Allah told them, "... Say to them, hell fire is hotter than this, if they would understand..." *al-Tawbah* 9:81. The *Munafiqun* were sure that the outcome would be a big defeat for the Muslims.

There were also some weak-minded Muslims. Under the influence of the *Munafiqun* or out of sheer laziness, they excused themselves from joining the Muslim army.

Since all the allies of the *Munafiqun* (the *Kuffar* of Makkah and the Jews of Madinah) were defeated, they needed a plot against the Muslims carefully. For this purpose, they built another mosque near Quba. They met there to plot against the Muslims while the Muslims thought they were there to say *Salat* prayer. Allah exposed their conspiracies and called it *Masjid Dirar* (mosque to harm Islam). These *Munafiqun* approached Rasulullah(S) to lead *Salat* in that *Masjid* before he left for the campaign. Rasulullah(S) knew very well the nature of the conspiracy of the *Munafiqun* and so he excused himself from it then but promised that after his return he would look into the matter.

There were thirty thousand Muslim soldiers who started for Syria to face the Roman army. It was the biggest army that Rasulullah(S) had assembled. But it was no match for the hundreds of thousands of Roman soldiers. Besides, the Romans had a professional army. The Roman soldiers were paid by the emperor; the Muslim soldiers contributed their own wealth to join the army. There were, in fact, many Muslims left in Madinah who were keen to go but had neither provisions nor rides.

The news of the Muslim army advance reached the Romans. They were not yet fully prepared for a war. They could hardly believe that an Arab army had marched to Syria. "Muhammad must be a very strong emperor," they thought. The generals had once faced Khalid, Rasulullah's general. They did not want to face Rasulullah(S) himself. They withdrew their forces from Syria.

The Muslim army went as far as Tabuk in Syria. Rasulullah(S) stayed there for a few days. Many Arab tribes and small states which paid tribute to the Romans came to Rasulullah(S) for help. Roman taxes were high, there was no system of justice, and the Roman army was cruel. These Arab Christian rulers now came under the protection of Rasulullah's just rule. Their states became tributary states of Madinah.

Rasulullah(S) came back with a great victory. Now all these weak-minded Muslims came to Rasulullah(S) asking for forgiveness. They were truly repentant. They had realized their mistake. Rasulullah(S) said, "You have defied not my orders but Allah's orders. Only Allah can forgive you." Some of these Muslims were asked by Rasulullah(S) to stay away from everyone else. Some

other Muslims tied themselves with the ropes of *Masjid al-Nabi* and said, "We shall not untie ourselves until Allah forgives us."

Later when Allah forgave them Rasulullah(S) himself freed them from their chains and announced that Allah liked the sincerity of these Muslims and had forgiven them. It was a day of great happiness for them.

As for the *Munafiqun*, Allah had told His Prophet about their conspiracies. Abdullah bin Ubai fell sick at this time. Rasulullah(S) went to inquire about his health. He was on his death bed. He requested Rasulullah(S) to bury him in Rasulullah's own shirt. Rasulullah(S) accepted his request. After his death, Rasulullah(S) even said prayers for his soul. Later Allah sent a *Wahi* which completely forbade prayer for the *Munafiqun*. The *Wahi* said,

O Muhammad, never pray for him if one of them dies,
nor stand by his grave. Indeed, they disbelieved in Allah and
His messenger and died while they were evildoers.

Surah 9:84

Allah told the Prophet(S) not to follow a lenient policy with the *Munafiqun* any more.

Allah informed Rasulullah(S) about the *Masjid of al-Dirar* that was built to harm the Muslims. Rasulullah(S) was asked by Allah to raze this *Masjid* to the ground, which he did. Thus ended the conspiracies of the *Munafiqun*. Many of them now realized their mistakes. They came to Rasulullah(S) and asked his forgiveness and professed Islam sincerely. Rasulullah(S) accepted their apologies and prayed to Allah to make their faith in Islam strong.

Points of Review:

- * The Muslims achieved great victories against the powerful Romans.
- * Allah asked Rasulullah(S) to demolish the *Masjid al-Dirar* of the *Munafiqun*.
- * Many *Munafiqun* repented and became good Muslims.

Words to Remember:

Repentent, tributary

Names to Remember:

Abdullah bin Rawahah, Abdullah bin Ubai, Jafar (R), Khalid bin Walid(R), *Masjid al-Dirar*, Mu'tah, Shurjil, Tabuk

The Quranic Study

1. *Surah Tawbah* was revealed by Allah which dealt with the *Ghazwah* of Tabuk and its aftermath. 9:38-72 was revealed before and 9:73-129 was revealed after the *Ghazwah* of Tabuk. With the background of this chapter, read these two sections with the help of following guide and understand their central ideas.
 - a. The Muslims who followed Rasulullah(S) enthusiastically 9:44, 71, 88, 89, 99, 100, 111, 112, 119.
 - b. The sincere Muslims who could not join the army due to lack of animals to ride or poor health, 9:91-93.
 - c. Sincere Muslims who did not join due to laziness but repented to Allah, 9:102-105, 117, 118.
 - d. *Munafiqun* who now started seeing the truth, 9:106
 - e. *Munafiqun*, 9:38, 39, 42-49, 79, 81-89, 101.
 - f. The Arabs of the desert who wanted to wait to see the results of the war before joining the Muslims, 9:97-98, 120, 121.
2. A *Masjid* is a place built to worship Allah alone. Such was *Masjid al-Quba*. The *Masjid* of *Munafiqun* is called *Masjid al-Dirar* because it was built to unite the mischievous. See how the Quran describes the two *Masjids*. 9:107-110.
3. It is obligatory for each community of Muslim *Ummah* to support a group of scholars of religion whose total life should be committed to the study, understanding and teaching of religion.

Read *Surah al-Tawbah* 9:122.

What is your community doing to respond to this call of Allah?



LESSON 21

AN APPEAL OF ISLAM

8th to 10th Year of Hijrah

We have already seen in the previous discussion how the Treaty of Hudaibiyah had paved the way for the peaceful spread of Islam. The liberation of Makkah, the victory of Hunain and the success of Tabuk further facilitated the peaceful spread of Islam through the missions of *Tabligh*. Rasulullah(S) continued to send the *Muballighun* (the preachers) to Arab tribes. Many Arab tribes wanted to learn the teachings of Islam. The *Muballighun* and teachers were invited by these tribes.

More and more Arab tribesmen from near and far wished to visit Rasulullah (S) and spend time with him. The first *Wafd* (delegation, plural *Wufoud*) to arrive in Madinah was as early as 5 A.H. It was from the tribe of *Muzainah*. The *Wafd* had four hundred members. They returned with the gift of Islam and a very special gift from Rasulullah(S), the dates from Madinah.

Between 8 and 10 A.H. began the rush of *Wufoud* to Madinah. Some of them were invited by Rasulullah(S), and others came on their own initiative. These *Wufoud* consisted of the tribesmen from diverse social backgrounds. Some came from distant cities where rich cultures had flourished, others came from *Bedouin* tribes who possessed neither fine culture nor much knowledge. Their motives were as varied as their background. Some, due to the love of Rasulullah(S) and Islam, came to seek further guidance from Rasulullah and enjoy the *Barakah* (the blessings) of his company; others came with the pride of *Jahiliyyah* seeking concessions for their people from the Islamic state of Madinah and hoping to accept Islam on their own terms. Also, among the people who came were both the Arab pagans and the Christians.

Banu Tamim was a prominent tribe, famous for its warriors, poets and speakers. They came to Madinah with the pride of *Jahiliyyah* and brought their poets, speakers and judges to demonstrate to Rasulullah(S) their superiority in the well known Arab arts of poetry and speech. They had hoped to win the respect of Muslims and a special status in Muslim society because of this.

Rasulullah(S) accepted their challenge. A contest was held for poetry and speech. The speech of Thabit bin Qais(R), and the spontaneous composition of Hassan bin Thabit(R), demonstrated the superiority of Islam and its messenger. *Banu Tamim* soon recognized the fact that superiority in Islam lies in submitting to Allah and His Prophet and following the teachings of Islam. As faith entered their hearts, they lost pride in their race and tribal past, and all of them accepted Islam.

The tribe of *Banu Sa'd* decided to send Zamam bin Tha'labah, their wise and experienced leader, to find out about the Prophet(S) and his teachings. They had, perhaps believed that the common people of their tribe should not be exposed to the influence of Rasulullah(S) before their leader finds out about him. Zamam rode his camel up to the open yard of *Masjid al-Nabi* with great pride. Rasulullah(S) was seated on the floor of the *Masjid* with his *Sahabah*(R). He was hardly distinguishable from them. Zamam had to ask, "Which one of you is Muhammad?"

A *Sahabi*(R) pointed out Rasulullah(S). Zamam approached and addressed him, "O, son of Abdul Muttalib! I will ask you a few questions. I will be frank and to the point. Do not be offended."

Rasulullah(S) replied calmly, "Ask whatever you wish to ask." Zamam asked Rasulullah(S) about the teachings of Islam and his mission as a messenger. The speech of Rasulullah(S) convinced him of the truth of Rasulullah's mission. He accepted Islam and returned home, determined to invite his tribe to the path of Islam. Upon arrival he addressed his people about the evils of idolatry and the virtues of Islam. Such was the force of his preaching that by evening the entire tribe had accepted Islam.

In Yemen the tribe of *Ash'arin* had received the call of Islam through its poet, Tufail Dusi(R). Its delegation returned to Madinah singing songs full of love for Rasulullah(S). They stayed with Rasulullah(S), received their Islamic education and returned to Yemen to work for Islam. The famous *Sahabi* Abu Mousa Ash'ari(R) belonged to this tribe.

Tufail Dusi (R) had worked hard to invite his own clan of *Dus* to Islam, but this clan continued to resist. Tufail(R) was so sincerely fervent in his belief that the resistance of *Dus* irritated and angered him. The clan respected him for his wisdom and poetry, but would not listen to him in this matter. He warned them, in vain, of the evil consequences of their defiance. Tufail(R), in disappointment,

left for Madinah and reported his difficulties to Rasulullah(S). Rasulullah(S) loved Tufail(R) and appreciated his zeal, but he also knew that Tufail(R) had a hot temper. He advised Tufail(R), "Invite your people to Islam with kindness and gentle persuasion and not with anger and threats." He also prayed for the conversion of Tufail's tribe.

When Tufail(R) returned to *Dus* his clan responded to his call enthusiastically. They accepted Islam, and 80 families made *Hijrah* to Madinah in order to live with Rasulullah(S) and his *Sahabah*(R). Among the *Muhajirun* was Abu Huraira(R), famous narrator of *Ahadith* (traditions).

The *Banu Hars bin Ka'b* was a noble tribe of Najran. It was well known for its chivalry and innumerable victories over its enemies. The tribe accepted Islam through the *Tabligh* efforts of Khalid bin Walid(R). Rasulullah(S) had sent a special invitation to them to visit Madinah. They came under the leadership of Qais bin al Hasin(R). Rasulullah(S) welcomed them warmly and asked them, "Tell me what has made you victorious over your enemies?"

They answered, "Our unity and sense of justice." This answer delighted Rasulullah(S) greatly because Islam also teaches unity and justice based upon *Taqwah* (fear of Allah). Rasulullah (S) appointed Qais(R) the chief of his tribe.

The tribe of *Tay* was another famous tribe of Yemen. It had two chiefs, Zaid al-Khil and Adi bin Hatim. They had separate domains and ruled independently in their respective areas. Zaid was known for his generosity and horsemanship. He came to Rasulullah(S) with some selected and influential members of his tribe. Rasulullah(S) received them and explained to them the teachings of Islam. Within a short time they accepted Islam.

Rasulullah(S) always advised his *Sahabah*(R) to give their children good names. The children grow up imbibing the characteristics of the meaning of their names. When a *Kafir* accepted Islam, and Rasulullah(S) found his name either opposed to the teachings of Islam or not meaningful, he selected an appropriate name for him. For Zaid-al-Khail, (Zaid, the horseman), Rasulullah(S) chose Zaid-al-Khair, (Zaid, the generous). Zaid was very happy to receive this honor, and he lived up to his name in the service of Islam.

The other chief of *Tay* was 'Adi, son of the famous Hatim Ta'i. Among the Arabs, name of Hatim was synonymous with charity, generosity and hospitality. 'Adi was a pious christian and a worthy son of his famous father. He commanded

a great respect among his people. When a Muslim army entered the land of Tay 'Adi fled to Syria. Not knowing the tolerance of Islam and Muslims, he was afraid for his life and religion. His sister, however, was taken a prisoner of war and brought to Rasulullah(S). When Rasulullah(S) learned about her family and her father he showed her special consideration and allowed her to leave for Syria to join her brother. She went to Syria and told her brother about the generosity and kindness of Rasulullah(S). She convinced him that with Muhammad(S) both his life and religion would be safe.

'Adi could not resist the persuasion of his sister and arrived at *Masjid al-Nabi*. Rasulullah(S) was very pleased to receive him and showed him his personal love. He invited 'Adi to visit his home. On their way, Rasulullah(S) met an old lady. He stopped, and listened to the conversation of this commoner with attention and patience. 'Adi was a chief, and had seen the courts of Caesars and their kings. He had never seen a chief or king as considerate as Rasulullah(S). He was deeply impressed by Rasulullah's humility.

When he visited Rasulullah's home he was amazed by the simplicity of the Prophet's life. He opened his heart to accept Islam. "Muhammad(S) is not an ordinary king," he realized. "He is the Prophet of Allah. He has come, not to establish his empire, but to establish the kingdom of Allah on earth." 'Adi became a Muslim. Soon the entire tribe of Tay accepted Islam.

Banu Thaqif of Ta'if had resisted the Muslim army successfully and continued to defy Islam. Rasulullah(S) had prayed for their guidance. Two years later *Banu Thaqif* sent a powerful delegation to Madinah to negotiate for them a special position in Islam. Rasulullah(S) received them with great hospitality and allowed them to put their tents in the courtyard of *Masjid al-Nabi*. For several days, *Banu Thaqif* continued to observe the Muslims and to learn from Rasulullah(S) about Islam. Finally, they showed willingness to accept Islam on the condition that they should be allowed to have the freedom to practice usury, drink alcohol and commit adultery. Rasulullah(S) rejected those terms. The principles of Islam are divine. No one, including the Prophet(S) himself, had any power to alter them.

Then *Banu Thaqif* asked Rasulullah(S) about their idol, *al-Lat*. Rasulullah(S) told them that it would be broken. The tribe reluctantly accepted the fact, but requested that some-one from outside their tribe be sent to break the idol. Some of them still believed that *al-Lat* had the power to destroy anyone who angered it.

Rasulullah(S) understood their reluctance and accepted their excuse. He knew that once they had seen the helplessness of their idol, their superstitions would disappear.

Finally, *Banu Thaqif* wanted exemptions from *Salat*, *Zakat* and *Jihad*. Rasulullah(S) refused all that. He only agreed that they would not destroy their idols by their own hands.

Rasulullah(S) sent two *Sahabah*, Abu Sufyan(R) and Mughira bin Sha'bah(R) to destroy the idols of *Banu Thaqif*. As the *Sahabah*(R) arrived to break the idols, some tribesmen felt terror in their hearts. Women began crying for their gods, and children watched with amazement. *Al-Lat* was broken into pieces. With it was broken the pride and superstition of the days of *Jahiliyyah*.

The tribe of *Banu Asad* was a proud ally of the *Quraish*. They had accepted Islam in 5 A.H., but had not received the training of Rasulullah(S). In 9 A.H., they took the initiative to send a *Wafd* to Rasulullah(S). They felt, by accepting Islam and coming to Rasulullah(S), they had favoured him and should have something in return for this favor. As they met Rasulullah(S), they told him, "See, we have come to you on our own initiative. You did not send any invitation to us." Rasulullah(S) did not answer them, but Allah sent a *Wahi* which spoke,

They impress on you that they have accepted Islam.
Tell them, "Count not the acceptance of Islam as
a favor upon me; no, on the other hand, Allah
has guided you to the Faith, if you are sincere.

al-Hujurat 49:17

Banu Asad immediately realized their mistake and thanked Allah for taking them out of the darkness of *Kufr* to the light of Islam.

Ash'ath bin Qais, the leader of the affluent *Kindah* tribe, led his own tribe's *Wafd* to Madinah. The *Wafd* of *Kindah* had eighty horsemen. They wore expensive robes and covered them with artistic silken shawls made in *Hira*. As Rasulullah(S) received them, he was surprised by their clothes. He asked the *Wafd*, "Have you not accepted Islam yet?"

"Yes, we have," they replied.

"What are these silken shawls on your shoulders?" Rasulullah(S) asked, reminding them of the simplicity of a Muslim.

They realized that silk is forbidden for a Muslim. The delegation took off their expensive shawls, tore them and threw them on the ground, showing their complete submission to the commandments of Allah.

Not everyone, who came, was ready to accept Islam. Some of them recognizing the rising power of Islam, came only to secure convenient terms. The tribe of *Banu 'Amir* was led by its leaders 'Amir bin Tufail, Arbad bin Qais and Jabbar bin Salma. They were not sincere in their faith and they came determined either to receive concessions from Rasulullah(S) or to kill him. They chose 'Amir as their leader to represent their interests. They planned, that while 'Amir engaged Rasulullah(S) in conversation, Arbad should attack him and kill him. 'Amir showed false respect to Rasulullah(S) by speaking to him politely. Rasulullah(S), however, was well aware of their attitude and stopped them from such hypocritic politeness. He demanded that they should speak frankly and state their intention clearly.

'Amir, then, presented his terms, "O, Muhammad! You may rule the village while I will rule the city, or you may rule both but nominate me as your successor. If you reject my terms, I will invade Madinah with my tribe and allies." Rasulullah(S) was fully aware of his intentions. He rejected these terms. 'Amir now expected Arbad and Jabbar to attack Rasulullah(S), but was stunned to see Arbad and Jabbar trembling with fear. 'Amir and Arbad left the Prophet(S) in frustration. Jabbar and other members of this *Wafd* experienced a change in them and stayed with Rasulullah(S). Rasulullah(S) prayed to Allah, "O, Allah! Save me from the mischief of these people." After a few days both 'Amir and Arbad died of plague.

Jabbar and the rest of the *Wafd* were so impressed by Rasulullah(S) and his teachings, that they accepted Islam and returned to their tribe to teach them their new faith.

An important *Wafd* to visit Madinah was from the Christians of *Najran*. Rasulullah(S) had invited them to visit Madinah and accept Islam. The Christian state of *Najran* was under the sovereignty of Rome. They had a huge church and they called it Ka'bah. It was under an archbishop. They did not accept

Islam but agreed to send a high powered delegation to visit the Prophet(S) under the leadership of its archbishop. These people had hoped that they could convert the Prophet(S) to their religion. The *Wafd* was received very kindly and Rasulullah (S) allowed them to stay in *Masjid al-Nabi*. They were allowed to perform Christian worship in the *Masjid* when the time of worship came for them. During their stay, they asked Rasulullah(S), many questions. Allah sent a *Wahi* (Ali Imran 3:1-80) to answer their questions. The *Wahi* invited them to join Islam,

Say, O People of the Book! Come to an agreement between us and you, that we shall worship none except Allah, that we associate no partners with Him, that none of us shall take anyone for Lord besides Allah. If they turn away, then tell them, "Bear witness that we are Muslims."

Ali 'Imran 3:64

Rasulullah recited this verse to them. The Christians replied, "How can we accept the faith, when we are already believers?"

Rasulullah(S) replied, "But you worship the cross, and call Isa(S) the son of God. How could you be a believer?" Many long conversations between Rasulullah(S) and the Christians took place but Christians did not change their minds. They continued to doubt the truth of Rasulullah's mission. Then Allah sent a *Wahi* (3:61) and asked Rasulullah to invite them for *Mubahilah*. In *Mubahilah* both Rasulullah(S) and the Christians would come out with their families and invite the wrath of Allah upon those, who practised falsehood and told lies. Thus the curse of Allah descends upon those whose belief is false. Some Christians seemed willing to accept this. Rasulullah(S) came out with his daughter, Fatimah(R) and grandsons, Hasan(R) and Husain(R). The Christians discussed the situation among them. One wise priest advised them, "If Muhammad is truly the prophet of Allah, then we shall be destroyed. It is better not to have *Mubahilah*."

The *Wafd* of *Najran* neither accepted Islam nor the challenge of *Mubahilah*. However, they accepted the political sovereignty of Madinah. Rasulullah(S) offered them very generous terms and allowed them to continue to practise their religion, maintain their churches, and enjoy full freedom.

The *Wufoud* continued to arrive in Madinah till the last days of Rasulullah's life. Many of them had received no training in Islam. They were simple nomads. They did not know how to behave in the presence of Rasulullah(S). Allah sent *Wahi* (Surah al-Hujurat 49:1-11) with specific teachings of social etiquettes and manners for the Muslims.

Islam was now a powerful force in Arabia. Every day tribe after tribe was accepting Islam.

We have learned

- * Between 5 A.H. and 10 A.H., many *Wufoud* of the Arabs came to Madinah to accept Islam.
- * The *Wafd* of the Christians of *Najran* did not accept Islam and Rasulullah(S) allowed them to practise their religion and maintain their churches.
- * Allah taught important social lessons to the Muslims through revelations.

Words to Remember

Muballigh, Muballighun, Tabligh, Wafd, Wufoud

Quranic Study

Surah al-Hujurat, 49, taught the Muslims important social etiquettes and manners.

1. For Muslims' behavior towards the Prophet(S) read: 49:1 - Respect in the presence of the Prophet(S)
49:3 - Manner of Conversation
49:5 - Meeting with Rasulullah(S)
2. Rules for an Islamic social living:
49:6 - Verification of news.
49:9,10 - Peace among Muslim groups
49:11 - Not to laugh at, ridicule, or defame another person.
49:12 - Avoid suspicion, spying and speaking ill of others.
3. For the Arabs, who wanted favors from Rasulullah(S) because of their race, tribe, social status and wealth, the Quran taught:
49:7, 17 - Allah's favor to Muslims
49:13—15 - Human equality and a new basis of Divine preference.

LESSON 22

HAJJATUL WADA' (FAREWELL PILGRIMAGE)

Tenth Year of *Hijrah*

Islam now was the dominant power in Arabia. In Madinah, the community of Islam succeeded in defeating the *Kuffar*, the Jews and the *Munafiqun*. Muslims in Arabia were now one community. Their tribal differences were no longer important. Their longstanding disputes were forgotten. The former enemies were now united into a brotherhood of true faith. All of them worshipped Allah and believed in Rasulullah(S) as their Prophet. They said *Salat* five times a day, kept *Sawm* in *Ramadan*, performed *Hajj* and gave regular *Zakat*. Their morals and manners had no likeness to their earlier life in *Jahiliyyah*.

A decade before, no one could have believed except pious Muslims, that the divided, uneducated, and vice ridden Arabs would become a great moral force. They would start a new era in human history.

Rasulullah (S) was in the sixty-third year of his life. He declared his intention to go on pilgrimage. The news spread fast throughout Muslim lands and people from far and near started moving toward Kabah. Each one wanted to be blessed by the company of their beloved Prophet (S). Little did they know that it was a farewell pilgrimage for Rasulullah(S) before his final journey to eternal life.

Thousands of Muslims accompanied Rasulullah(S). They left saying *Talbiah*,

O Allah, we respond to Your call.
We respond to Your call, there is no partner with You.
All praises and blessings are Yours. All sovereignty belongs to You.
O Allah, we respond to Your call.

When Rasulullah (S) reached Makkah, one hundred fourteen thousand people were with him. Many more joined him in Makkah and on the way to *Arafat* for the performance of *Hajj*.

In the last day of the *Hajj* in the vast open field of *Arafat* on 9th *Dhul Hijjah*, Rasulullah (S) stood up and gave the famous *Khutba* (sermon) which is truly the first declaration of human rights. He spoke as hundreds and thousands of people listened intently with love and devotion.

All praises are due to Allah. We glorify Him and seek His help and pardon.

O people! Listen to what I say. I think I shall not be able to meet with you at this place ever after this year.

O people! Your blood, your property, and your honor is sacred and to be respected.

You will meet Allah and be answerable for your actions. Neither the son is responsible for the crimes of the father, nor the father for the crimes of his son.

Listen! All Muslims are brothers to each other. You will not oppress one another. The blood revenge of the days of old is abolished.

The usury is being ended.

Fear Allah concerning your women. You have certain rights over your women, and your women have certain rights over you. Lay injunction upon your women but kindly.

O people! Obey your *Amir* (leader). Even if a black Abyssinian slave be your leader, obey him as long as he follows the Book of Allah.

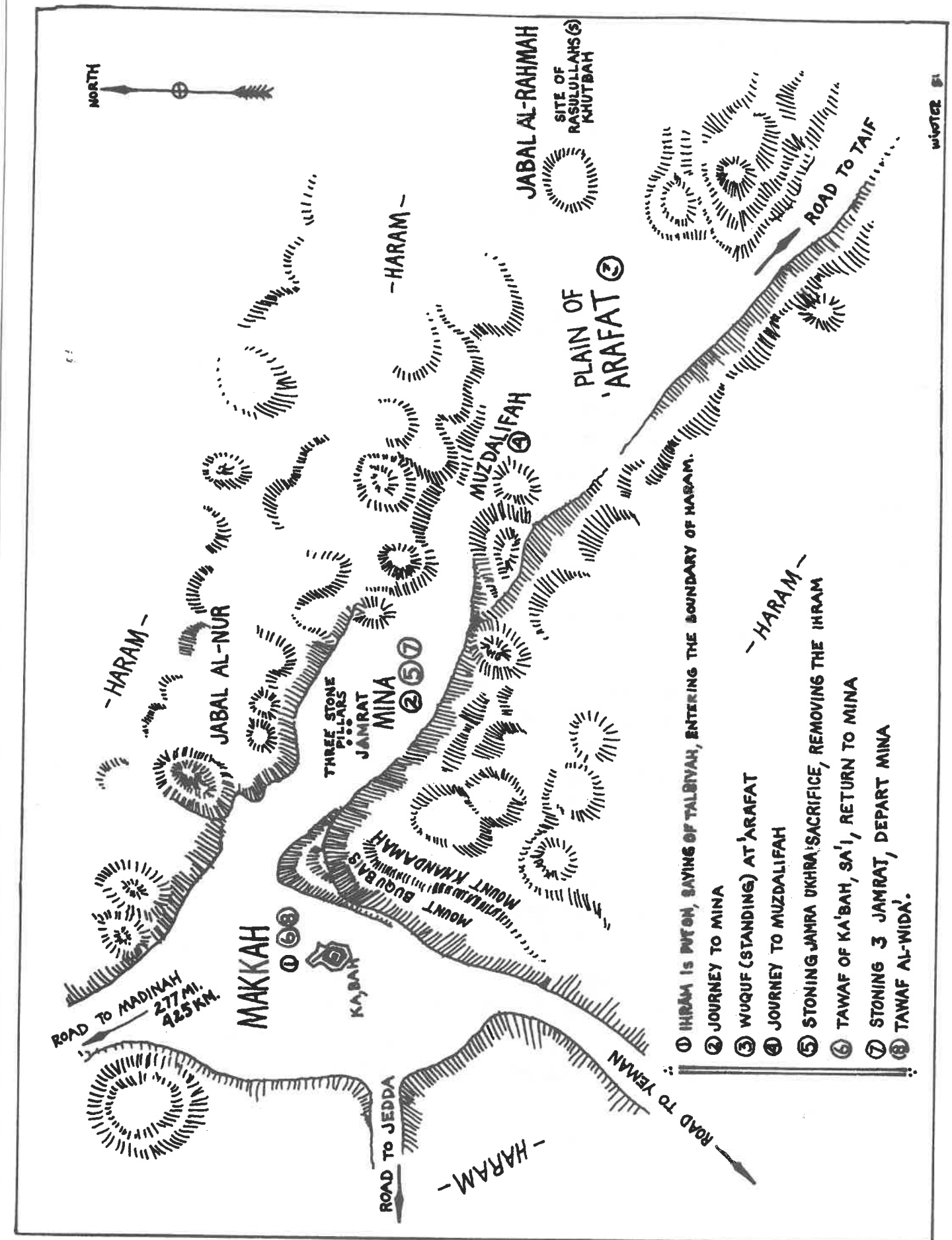
O people! The child belongs to the marriage bed. Allah has fixed a share in his inheritance. He who attributes his ancestry to other than his own father, Allah's curse will fall on him.

Listen! I have left among you the Book of Allah and my *Sunnah*. Hold fast to it. You will never go astray.

Then he looked at the people and asked them, "When asked about me what will you say to Allah?" All the people replied together, "You have brought us the message. You have fulfilled the mission."

Rasulullah(S) looked up to heaven and said, "O Allah, be my witness." Then he repeated it three times. Rasulallah(S) combined his *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayer in *Arafat*. After *Asr* he left for *Muzdalifah*. The crowd was large. Everyone wanted to come close to him to see him and talk to him. As he rode the camel he appealed to people, "Be patient O people, be patient."

In *Muzdalifah*, Rasulallah (S) said his *Maghrib* and *Isha* prayer, then he went to sleep. He did not wake up for *Tahajjud* as was his habit. He said *Fajr* prayer before sunrise and left for *Mina*.



He told people, "Learn the method of *Hajj* from me. I may not be able to make another *Hajj* next year." On his way people kept on asking questions and he went on replying to them.

The next day on the 10th of *Dhul Hijjah*, he addressed the Muslims again and said,

I tell you, each one of you should respect the life and property of each other just as you have respect for this sacred day, for this sacred month, and for this sacred city.

Be kind to your slaves, feed and clothe them as you do to yourself. They are the servants of Allah and should not be punished.

On the eleventh *Dhul Hijjah*, Rasulullah(S) spoke to his *Sahabah*(R) once again. After praising Allah he said,

O people!
Your Lord is one.
Your father Adam is one
Adam was created from clay.

Remember!

There is no superiority to an Arab over a non-Arab
and a non-Arab over an Arab.
Nor white over black or black over white
except in piety.

Allah says, "Noblest in the eyes of Allah are those who are the most righteous".

Behold!

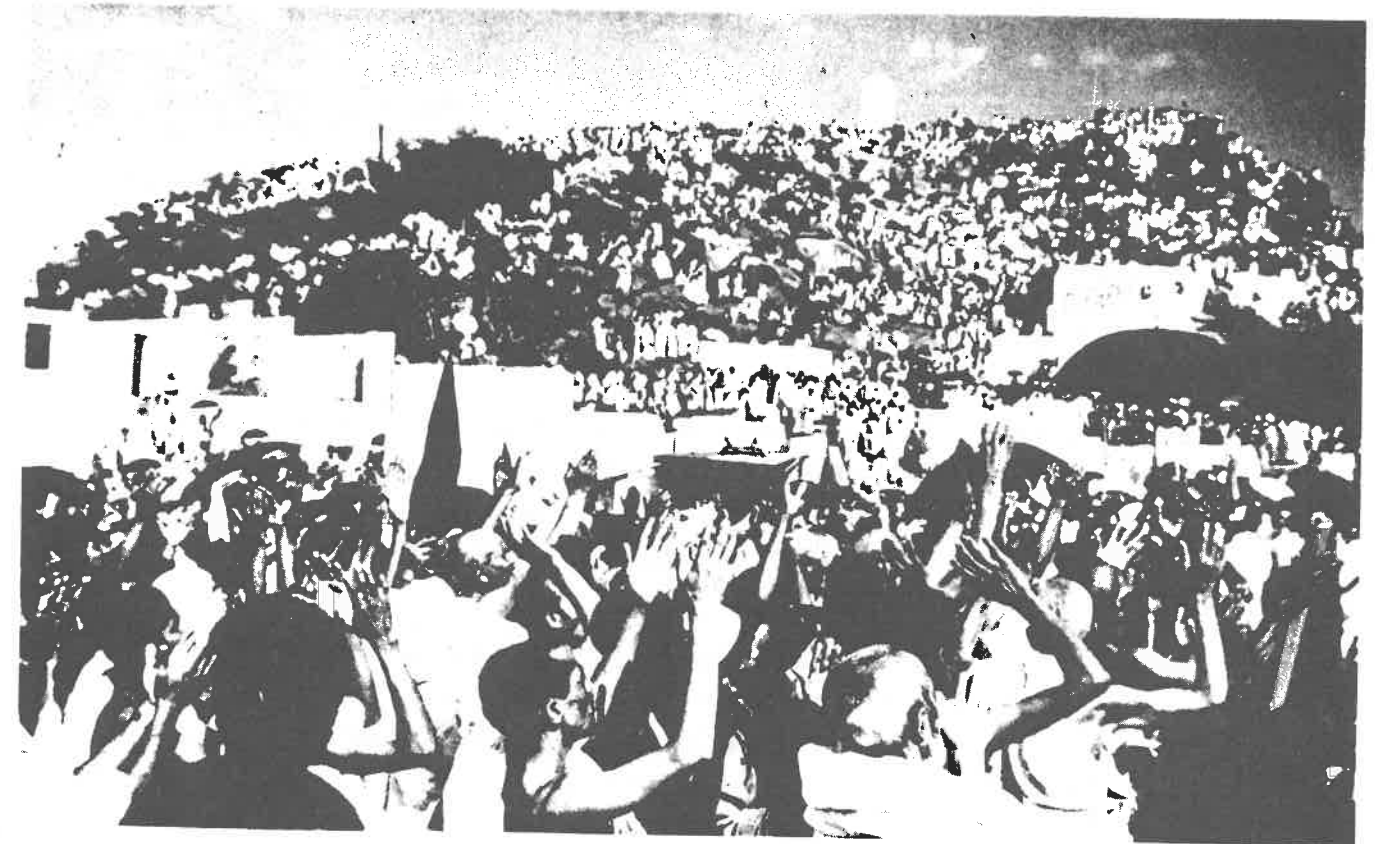
Those who are present have a responsibility to give the message to those who are not present.

Then he lifted up his head and looked towards Heaven and said,

O Allah, bear witness, I have conveyed the message.

It was at this time that Allah sent His *Wahi* informing Muhammad(S) about the completion of his mission. Rasulullah(S) immediately announced it,

¹*al-Hujurat* 49:13



Millions of Muslims have followed the path of Rasulullah(S) to the valley of Arafat and prayed under *Jabal al-Rahmah*.

This day I have perfected for you your religion, and completed my favor upon you. And I am well pleased with Islam as your religion.
al-Ma'idah, 5:3

Muslims were very happy to receive this verse. But Abu Bakr (R) understood well that Rasulullah's mission was now completed. The purpose of his prophethood was fulfilled and his physical presence would not remain much longer in this world. This thought made him sad.

Rasulullah(S) and his party returned to Madinah and the other Muslims went back to their cities.

Points of Review:

- * Rasulullah(S) performed *Hajjatul Wada'* with a large number of Muslims.
- * In the plains of Arafat, he gave his last sermon.
- * A *Wahi* confirmed that Allah had chosen al-Islam as His religion and completed the mission of Rasulullah(S).

Words to Remember:

Hajjatul Wada', human rights, longstanding, *Khutba*, sovereignty, vice-ridden.

Names to Remember

Arafat, Mina, Muzdalifah

Quranic Study

Hajj is one of the five *Arkan* of Islam. It is a unique experience which strengthens the bonds of Islamic fraternity and the *Ummah's* relationship with Allah. Rasulullah(S) in his *Hajjatul Wada'*, himself demonstrated the proper method of performing *Hajj*. To understand the true significance of this Islamic *ruk'n*, read the following verses of the Quran.

- 1) *al-Baqarah* 2:158. *Safa* and *Marwa* are signs of Allah.
- 2) *al-Baqarah* 2:197-203. The spirit of the *Hajj*.
- 3) *Ali 'Imran* 3:96, 97. The *Kabah*, the first house of Allah.
- 4) *al-Hajj* 22:26. Establishment of the *Kabah*.
- 5) *al-Hajj* 22:27-29 the universality of the *Hajj*.
- 6) *al-Hajj* 22:30-33 The meaning of the *Hajj*.

LESSON 23

THE FINAL JOURNEY TO ETERNAL LIFE

After *Hajjatul Wada'* there was every indication that Rasulullah(S) was making final preparation to meet Allah and rest in peace in Paradise. On his return to Madinah, *Surah al-Nasr* was revealed to him which said,

When Allah's help and victory comes,
and you see the people entering the religion of Allah in crowds,
Then celebrate the praises of your Lord;
and pray for forgiveness.

For He is Oft-returning (through His grace and mercy)
al-Nasr, 110.

Rasulullah(S) thereafter spent most of his time in prayer and *Dhikr* of Allah (Remembering Allah). In his last *Ramadan* three months before his *Hajj*, he spent twenty days in *I'tikaf* (seclusion and prayer). He recited the whole Quran twice to Jibril(A). When he returned after the *Hajj*, he went to the graves of the *Shuhada'* of *Uhud* and bid them farewell. His prayers for *Shuhada'* were so moving, as if from a man about to die, saying farewell to the living. Then he went to *Masjid al-Nabi* and spoke to the *Sahabah* (R).

I am going to the river of *Kawthar* ahead of you. I will make arrangements for your reception and be a witness for your actions.

I see with my eyes the keys of the treasures of earth given to me. Allah is my witness, I don't fear that my *Ummah* will commit shirk but I fear that you may get involved in the greed of this world and start killing each other. Then you may be destroyed like the earlier nations.

One night, on the 18th or 19th of *Safar*, 11 A.H., Rasulullah(S) went to *Jannat al-Baqi'*, the graveyard of Muslims in Madinah to say *Dua'*, as if he was saying farewell to those who died before him. He told his servant, Abu Muhaibah, "I have been given a choice: to have the keys of the treasures of the world until the end of time, and then go and meet the Lord; or I may immediately go and meet the Lord."

His servant said, "May my parents be sacrificed on you. Accept the keys of the treasures of the world and then go to Paradise."

Rasulullah(S) replied, "No, I have already made my choice. I have decided to meet my Lord."

The next day, on Wednesday, he developed a headache and a high temperature. As five days passed, he continued his daily visits to his wives. But now he felt weak. He got permission from his wives to stay in the room of A'isha(R). Though weak and exhausted, he continued to lead the prayer and meet the *Sahabah* and the visitors. When it became impossible for him to move he asked his *Sahabi* and old friend, Abu Bakr (R), to be *Imam* (leader) for the *Salat*.

One day, he went to the *Masjid* with the help of Ali(R) and Abbas(R). He led the prayer while he was seated. He was helped on the *Mimbar* (dais) and talked to the *Sahabah*(R). Though exhausted and weak, he made his last address to his *Sahabah* (R).

Allah has given His servant a choice to choose the pleasures of this world or of hereafter. He has chosen the Hereafter. The person for whose friendship and wealth I am most grateful is Abu Bakr.

Other nations had made the graves of their prophets objects of worship. Remember you don't fall into that error.

O people! I want to advise you to be kind to the *Ansar*. Other people will increase but the number of *Ansar* will decrease. They have fulfilled their duty to Islam. Now you have to fulfill your responsibilities toward them.

Rasulullah(S) learned that some people had raised objections to the command of young Usamah, son of Zaid, the freed slave. He told the people,

If some of you today are raising objections on the leadership of Usamah, they did so earlier also in the case of his father, Zaid. By Allah! Zaid was the most deserving of that position and dearest to me. After him, Usamah is the most deserving for this position and dearest to me.

Thus he struck finally at the long established ideas of preference for the family status and seniority. In Islam neither family nor age should be a factor for holding a responsible position, but only one's competence.

One day his condition became worse. In that condition he remembered that he had seven *Dinars*. He asked A'ishah(R) to distribute them to the poor. He said, "Muhammad does not want to meet his Lord in embarrassment."

One day he advised his daughter, Fatimah(R), and his aunt, Safiyah(R), "Do good deeds. Only your deeds will help you before Allah. Nothing helps you before Allah but your own deeds."

Rasulullah's advice made it clear that family ties, status or birth cannot save anyone. Each one of us has been given a "will" to act and is responsible for his own deeds.

Due to Rasulullah's sickness, there was general sadness in Madinah. Abu Bakr(R) led the prayers. People were so used to Rasulullah(S) that life without his presence looked meaningless. The *Ansar* and *Muhajirun* could not suppress their tears when they thought of the days when every day they enjoyed the company of Rasulullah(S).

One morning, he woke up extremely weak. He stood with A'ishah's support and lifted the curtain. *Fajr* (morning) *Salat* was being said. Rasulullah(S) had a smile of satisfaction on his face. When the *Sahabah*(R) heard the movement of the curtain, the *Salat* was disturbed. They became restless when they saw Rasulullah(S). He asked them to continue their prayer. This was his last glimpse of his *Ummah*. He could see with satisfaction how the message of Allah would continue after him.

His condition worsened during the day. He kept on praying, "O Allah, help me in the hour of death." He was half conscious but was still advising his *Ummah*, "Safeguard your *Salat* Be kind to your slaves."

He looked up to heaven and said, "Allah indeed is the best companion."

Having fulfilled his mission and having watched its success he left this temporary house for the eternal house in Heaven. He shall wait for his *Ummah* on the river of *Kawthar* and shall be our *Shafi'* (intercessor) before Allah. "There is no doubt, that you will die (one day)," the Quran declares, "indeed, they will also die." *al-Zumr* 39:30. "Inna li Allahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un." "We belong to Allah and shall return to Him." (*al-Baqarah* 2:156).

Points to Review:

- * In his last days, Rasulullah (S) was informed by *Wahi* that he should now spend more time in prayer.

- Until he breathed his last, he remained concerned for his *Ummah*.
- His last words were, "Allah indeed is the best friend."

Words to Remember:

I'tikaf, Shafi

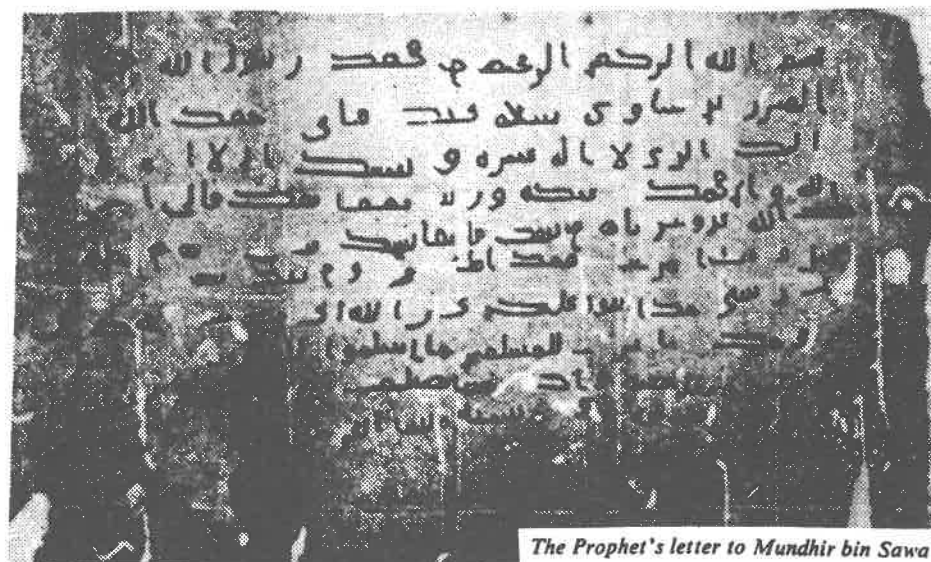
Names to Remember:

Abu Bakr (R), A'ishah (R), Fatimah (R), *Jannat al Baqi'*
Kawthar, Safiyah(R) Usamah, son of Zaid(R).

The Quranic Study

The message of Islam, which Allah revealed through many Prophets, was finally completed through Rasulullah(S).

- i. Islam is the only religion acceptable to Allah. *Ali Imran* 3:19, 85; *al-Ma'idah* 5:3; *al-Hajj* 22:78
- ii. It is a mercy from Allah that He chose Islam for us. Read *al-An'am* 6:125; *al-Zumr* 39:22; *al-Hujurat* 49:17
- iii. Islam means complete surrender to the Will of Allah. Read *al-Baqarah* 2:112, 208; *Ali 'Imran* 3:102.



The Prophet's letter to Mundhir bin Sawa

LESSON 24

THE MISSION CONTINUES

The news of the death of Rasulullah (S) spread throughout Madinah. The *Sahabah*(R) were so used to his presence that they could not believe he was gone. The way they loved the Prophet(S) no one has ever loved any one. In that hour of greatest sorrow, they could not think what that tragedy meant.

Umar(R) got so angry hearing the news that he threatened death to those who uttered such words. He said, "Rasulullah could not die. He has gone to meet Allah and will come back."

Abu Bakr(R) was also in a state of shock. He was also very close to Rasulullah (S). He also benefitted fully from the spiritual training of Rasulullah (S). He was first to go to visit Rasulullah's body. He kissed him on the forehead. Then he came out and addressed the grieving *Sahabah*(R). "Those of you who worshipped Muhammad, remember, Muhammad(S) is dead. Whoever amongst you worshipped Allah, remember, Allah is alive and eternal.

Then he recited the verse from the Quran,

Muhammad is no more than a messenger. Many messengers passed away before this. If he died or was killed, will you then turn back on your heels. Not the least harm will he do to Allah. But Allah on the other hand always rewards those people who are grateful to Him.

Ali-Imran 3:144

Then he made an appeal to Muslims to continue the mission of Islam and have their faith in Allah. This speech calmed the people's sorrow.

Rasulullah(S) was buried in his beloved wife A'ishah's room where he died. To this day this sight is the center of devotion and love of millions of Muslims.

The closest *Sahabah* of Rasulullah(S), Abu Bakr(R) and Umar(R) later were also buried in this room with the permission of A'ishah(R).

Hundreds and thousands of Muslims visit Madinah, the city of Rasulullah (S), say their *Salat* in the *Masjid al-Nabi* offer *Salam* at Rasulullah's grave, and come back with renewed faith to continue the work of Islam.

May peace and Blessings of Allah always be with Him. *Amin*.

Allahumma Salli ala Sayyidina wa Mawlana Muhammadin wa Barik wa Sallim, Amin.

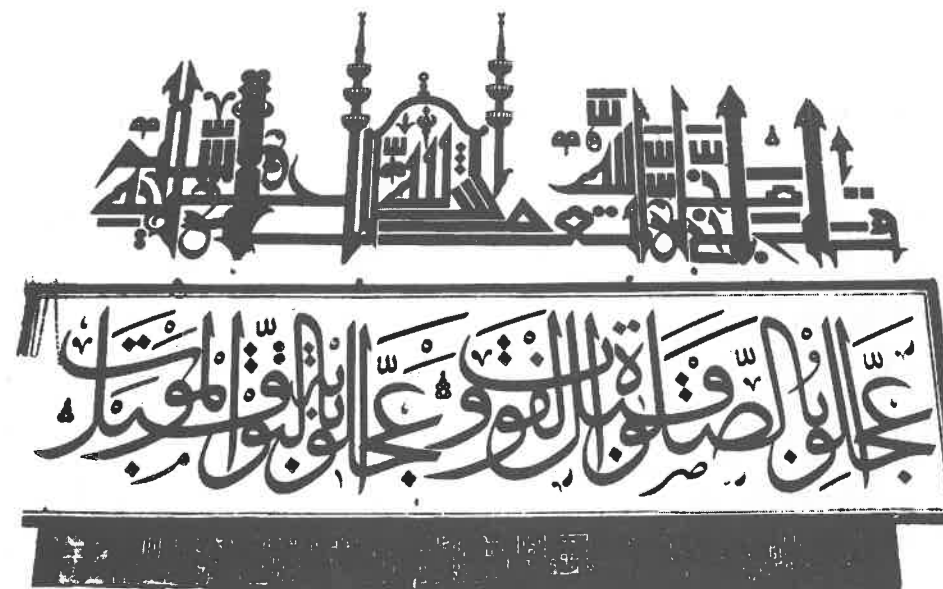
O Allah,

May your Peace be upon our leader and master Muhammad, and may your Blessing and Salutations be also with him. *Amin*.

Quranic Study

1. Islam did not establish a church or a priestly class to preach and administer religion, rather, the *Ummah* as a whole is given the responsibility of this special mission. Read:
al-Baqarah 2:142; Ali 'Imran 3: 104, 110
2. The Quran describes the personal characteristics of the members of the Muslim *Ummah* in clear terms. Such Characteristics are to be found throughout the Quran. Read:
al-Baqarah 2:2-5; Ali Imran 3:17; al-Ahzab 33:35

These characteristics, which early Muslims developed, made them model missionaries of Islam.



Inscriptions from the Eski Cami, Edirne, in decorative Kufi, with a Prophetic *hadith* in thuluth, and the "Thron-verse" in squared Kufi.